PRESS CONFERENCES

OF

THE PRESIDENT

1943 -- JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30

J. Romagna (PC's 871 to 906)
OFFICIAL REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #871
Executive Office of the President
January 1, 1943 -- 10.55 A.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (observing the small number of newspapermen filing into the room) It's all right. Good. Good.

Q Mind over matter.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Mind over matter. (much laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, a Happy New Year to all of you!

VOICES: Happy New Year to you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I was looking at the front row. The inspection is not bad at all. I don't know -- it isn't as large a Press Conference as usual (about 44 present). (laughter) And one of your colleagues in the front row suggests it's a matter of mind over matter. (more laughter)

Dr. (Ross T.) McIntire, for late comers -- there's old Mark (Sullivan), he got up too! -- (laughter) -- for late comers I have asked Admiral McIntire -- this is off the record, all of it -- to set up in your room out there a little dispensary for today -- (much laughter) -- which I thought would help in the general merriment. (more laughter)

I haven't anything except a Statement on this particular day (see addenda), because it's the anniversary -- the first anniversary of the United Nations. One year ago we signed the original declaration -- 26 nations; and I think 3 more have signed up since then. And the -- well, the statement speaks for itself.

I think it's a very real and important anniversary, because it

means a relationship not merely to the actual running of the war and winning of the war, but necessarily to the post-war period. I think all of us want that -- those United Nations to remain united at the end of the war, just as they are during the war.

I don't think I have got anything else, have I? (turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: There isn't anything, sir.

Q Mr. President, has Brazil come in? They declared war in August. Have they come in?

THE PRESIDENT: They haven't signed, No, no. There are certain special reasons down there for it.

Q Yes, sir.

Q Mr. President, would you like to expand on what you just said about the post-war period? Would you like to go on there?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's more or less taken care of in the statement.

Of course, as I think has been intimated before, there are -- there are a great many objectives when peace comes, so that we won't go back to the old menace of the pre-war period. A great many things the United Nations ought to and I think will remain united for.

However, there is one thing which at the present time stands out as the most important war objective, and that is to maintain peace, so that all of us, in going through this war, including the men on the fighting fronts and on the seas, will not have to go through another world cataclysm again, and they will have some reasonable assurance that their children won't have to go through it again. Almost all the other things we hope to get out of the war are more or less dependent on the maintenance of peace -- all kinds of planning

for the future, economic and social, and so forth and so on. It isn't an awful lot of use if there is going to be another world war in ten years, or fifteen years or twenty years. All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.

Q Could we put quotes around that?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't very well expressed.

Q That last sentence, sir.

(the President indicated approval, and the reporter read back, "All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.")

Q Mr. President, would you care to say how you think that can be maintained after the war?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. That's a different thing. In other words, you are talking about details. I am talking about objectives. I think we have got to keep that very firmly in mind on everything we do from now on. The details are not the important thing. The issue is: the objective.

Q I think that whole thing was very well put, sir. I don't like to press it, but I wonder if we can ---?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, --- (then turning to Mr. Early)

MR. EARLY: I think you will need to edit it a little, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Probably needs a little editing. I am not sure that the English is good. (laughter) Jack (Romagna) -- why don't you boys wait; it will take Jack 3 minutes to type it out, and send it in to me, and then I will send it out. (see addenda)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about Mr. Milton Eisenhower's report on the situation of the refugees in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. He didn't have any figures -- he didn't have any actual figures for me. Of course, I think most of the political prisoners are -- have been released.

Q Anything you can tell us on the Spanish Republicans in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: It isn't mentioned. I don't know.

Q Thank you.

Q Mr. President, you met with the head of the Chinese Military Mission yesterday (General Hsuing Shih-fei). Can you tell us anything about your conversation with him?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the same thing that has been talked about before. We are going ahead. He is going off on a trip around the manufacturing plants in the country, and coming back here, I think, in -- I don't know, what? -- a month and a half. Then after that he is going back to report to the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek); and I will see him before he goes -- quite a long ways off.

Q Mr. President, is there anything new since the last Press Conference on the martial law in Hawaii?

THE PRESIDENT; No. I haven't heard a word. Therefore, I assume that things are pretty well straightened out; I don't know.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

ADDENDUM FROM PAGE ONE

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

JANUARY 1, 1943

One year ago, twenty-six nations signed at Washington the Declaration by United Nations.

The world situation at that moment was grim indeed. Yet on that last New Year's Day, these nations, bound together by the universal ideals of the Atlantic Charter, signed an act of faith that military aggression, treaty violation, and calculated savagery should be remorselessly overwhelmed by their combined might, and the sacred principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness be restored as cherished ideals of mankind. They thus created the mightiest coalition in history, mighty not only for its overwhelming material force but still more for its eternal spiritual values. Three other nations have since joined that coalition.

The unity thus achieved amidst dire danger has borne rich fruit. The United Nations are passing from the defensive to the offensive.

The unity achieved on the battle line is being earnestly sought in the not less complex problems on a different front. In this as in no previous war men are conscious of the supreme necessity of planning what is to come after -- and of carrying forward into peace the common effort which will have brought them victory in the war. They have come to see that the maintenance and safeguarding of peace is the most vital single necessity in the lives of each and all of us.

Our task on this New Year's Day is three-fold: first, to press on with the massed forces of free humanity till the present bandit assault upon civilization is completely crushed; second, so to organize relations among nations that forces of barbarism can never again break loose; third, to cooperate to the end that mankind may enjoy in peace and in freedom the unprecedented blessings which Divine Providence through the progress of civilization has put within our reach.

ADDENDUM FROM PAGE 3

FOR THE PRESS IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 1, 1943

The following is an excerpt from the extemporaneous and informal remarks made by the President at his Press Conference today:

THE PRESIDENT: ..... Of course, as I think has been intimated before, there are a great many objectives when peace comes, so that we won't go back to the old menace of the pre-war period -- a great many things the United Nations ought to and I think will remain united for.

However, there is one thing which at the present time stands out as the most important war objective, and that is to maintain peace, so that all of us, in going through this war, including the men on the fighting fronts and on the seas, will not have to go through a world cataclysm again -- that they will have some reasonable assurance that their children won't have to go through it again. Almost all the other things we hope to get out of the war are more or less dependent on the maintenance of peace -- all kinds of planning for the future, economic and social, and so forth and so on. It isn't much use if there is going to be another world war in ten years, or fifteen years or twenty years. All the planning for the future is dependent, obviously, on peace.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #872
Executive Office of the President
January 5, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Bigger crowd today.

Q A little bigger.

Q Better than last Friday.

Q Bigger than Friday.

Q Probably a little happier, too.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Probably a little happier. (laughter)

(in the absence of Earl Godwin, Mr. Early escorted May Craig to his chair by the President's desk)

THE PRESIDENT: Now look at that! Look at that! It's all right. You had better be good if you sit there!

MISS MAY CRAIG: (making a mock gesture of getting up) Then I had better get off. (laughter)

Q (aside) That's not quite a compliment.

MR. EARLY: Godwin is no longer attending regularly. He's big-time now.

Q Big money.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything, except to talk to you about some schedules we will all join in. The Budget Message is finished, but there are mechanical problems to make it a little doubtful if the (Public) Printer can finish the tables by -- by Thursday afternoon, when we were to have met and have the Seminar. If he does -- if the tables are finished, we will have our talk about the Budget on Thursday afternoon, as has been planned; but if he doesn't finish

the tables -- I haven't spoken to the Congress yet -- I am going to ask permission to -- not to send it up until Monday, so that we would have a chance to talk about it on Saturday -- Saturday morning. It's a thing we won't know about for another 24 hours, as to whether we will have our meeting on the Budget on Thursday, or Saturday morning. That is up to the -- to the Printer.

I am working now on the -- on the Message that goes up in person on Thursday; and that is not finished yet, but I have loads of time. It will be on the mimeograph, I think -- I haven't even told Steve this, he will be very happy -- I hope to get it all finished by five o'clock tomorrow afternoon, so that he won't have to keep the mimeograph girls out here up all night, and you people will get it -- whatever the time is, about an hour before I go up to the Hill, for release when delivered. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, there are reports that a committee headed by Archduke Otto of Hapsburg is controlling the organization of a Free Austrian battalion in our Army. I wonder if you could comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. I would just as soon comment on that. I have read the reports. They are completely vicious and they are completely untrue. However, they have been copied in quite a number of papers around the country, and that might just as well be exploded once and for all.

I have a memo somewhere -- (looking for it on his desk) -- I think you can put it down four ways, that the Army is organizing a number of Free battalions; among then is an Austrian battalion -- wholly a War Department matter. And as I understand it, there are

several committees of Austrians who are trying to -- what will I say? -- tell all the Austrians in this country about it, so that it will be thoroughly well-known. One of these committees -- I believe this young man is on it, and also that he has two brothers who have gone into it as privates. And the committee is to assist in informing reliable Austrian nationals of the United States as to how and where they can apply to the War Department, just like any reputable committee of Austrians is given the same opportunity as those accorded to this committee that you were talking about. And any implications such as the ones I have seen are just plain not true.

Q Mr. President, Vice-Admiral (Emory S.) Land said today they have reached their goal of 8 million tons of ships this year. Would you comment on what is likely to happen in 1943?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. In the first place the goal of 8 million tons, and actually in 1943 they ---

Q (interposing) In 1942.

Q (interposing) In 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In 1942 they did 8 million, 90 thousand, 8 hundred -- 8,090,800 -- in the 12 months. That does not include a number of vessels that were built for the Armed Forces -- well, I would rather you didn't put this down, because I don't think -- I don't know whether it's a secret thing or not. As you know, we have built quite a lot of landing boats to land troops from, some in practice maneuvers over here -- Martha's Vineyard -- in North Carolina; and I think some of them actually we used in Africa. Now of course, some of those were built, I think, by the Maritime Commission; but

then, in addition to that, there were 800 small craft built by -- you can use the (number of) small craft -- I wouldn't know about the landing barges, because that might be -- I don't know whether it is or not -- a military secret.

Then on -- the end of December we were building ships -- we are now even a little better -- past the middle of the end of December, at the rate of 14 million, 4 hundred thousand tons a year. That's the present rate of building, and that should go on to a peak in the month of May.

That represents 4 a day, and in May it will be 5 a day.

The original goal for 1943, which was set last February, was 16 million tons. Well, we haven't set any new goals since then, but we are going to exceed 16 million tons.

Q That will be actual production ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

Q (continuing) --- in 1943, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Is is possible to give the amount sunk in 1942, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think that is one of the things they don't give out the figures on.

MR. P. BRANDT: Is the 8 million larger than the amount sunk?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But, Pete, you have to be careful about those figures -- awfully careful. And that is why I don't think I would use that at all. What do you mean -- what do you mean, ships sunk?

MR. P. BRANDT: (interposing) That's what I want to know, our ships or ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, as a statement by itself,

what I said was correct. In other words, all American ships sunk. But you complicate it terribly -- you would have to work out a definition of what you meant by ships sunk. After all there are a lot of Brazilian ships that were sunk before Brazil got into the war -- all kinds of complications. I think you had better just say then, "The child is doing well." (laughter)

Q Mr. President, can you tell us anything about what conclusion was arrived at Sunday in your conference on Mr. (Donald) Nelson's jurisdictional problem with Mr. (Leland) Olds?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q On Mr. Nelson's jurisdictional problem with Mr. Olds? Can you tell us what the result of the Sunday conference was?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, very simple. They are working at it. They will give me a report in about a week or ten days.

Q Mr. President, can you comment, sir, on reports that Mr. (Robert E.) Sherwood and Mr. (Joseph) Barnes of the O.W.I. have submitted their resignations to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Barnes, both of O.W.I.?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I haven't seen Mr. Barnes lately. I have had nothing from him. I have been working with Bob up to five minutes ago. I guess that's another one.

Q It was another one.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q I say it was another one.

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't think there's anything in that.

Q Mr. President, similar reports from Africa speak of General (Henri) Giraud releasing military prisoners, and speak of it in the future. Could you make any comment on the status of the military prisoners on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't know. I do know that -- that they are being released right along. I thought that most of them had been released. I think you will find they have.

Q Ernie Pyle (Scripps-Howard columnist), who is a pretty discreet and even-tongued individual ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- spoke of a policy of -- of fox -- of glove-handling "snakes" over there.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, he may probably -- being on the spot he may have better information than I have got, but it's a new one on me. I read Ernie's story.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (handing memos to Mr. Early) Take them away!

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #873
Executive Office of the President
January 8, 1943 -- 11.00 A.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: All ready.

MR. DONALDSON: All right, boys.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) I saw a picture of you. Come in here.

MR. GODWIN: (who had hesitated about sitting down) I thought I had lost it.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. GODWIN: Vilest sinners can return!

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. May (Craig) will excuse you. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Okay.

Q (aside) Do you see a kangaroo on that desk?

Q (aside) Where?

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) What does that give you?

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: What does that give you?

MR. GODWIN: I'm through.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you?

MR. GODWIN: No pleasure riding for me.

THE PRESIDENT: (in mock seriousness) Terrible!

Q I think they called All In, sir.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the only thing I have got is to tell you something about the writing of the speech, and ask you to help me out. The -- I happen to have the evidence right in my hand -- (holding it up high) -- it's the 12th page of the 8th draft. And of course, as you know, in writing a speech, I always over-write myself; and this particular

speech was no exception. I suppose I wrote 8 or 9 thousand words, and it added up to a little over 4 thousand.

And there's the draft, showing the pencil-marks of how I started to cut, and as a result of that there was a line and a half in the middle -- (indicating) -- which the girls, when they were writing it out, overlooked. And we did not pick it up on the 9th draft -- they left it out; and it wasn't struck out, and it was something important.

And I don't want anybody to feel in the shipyards, or the Maritime Commission, that it was an over -- deliberate oversight. The sentence was very simple, in talking about the production figures: "In 1942 we built 8 million and 90 thousand tons of merchant ships. In this we exceeded the goal set." Well, it was just plain left out. You can see what happened. (indicating again) And I would be very glad if that credit could be given to the -- to the people who are building the -- building the ships.

Q Could we have that once more, so that we could get the exact line?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. "In 1942 we built 8 million and 90 thousand tons of merchant ships. In this we exceeded the goal set."

I don't think I have got another thing.

Q Any other additions you would like to make in your speech this morning?

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I don't believe so.

MR. GODWIN: Have you gone, sir, so far as you care to go at this moment about expansion of the Social Security program?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, could we anticipate a special message on that later in the year?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think probably information -- data.

Q To the Congress, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. Data -- better emphasize the word "facts."

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

Q Would you care to tell us, Mr. President, about the status of the post-war plan of the National Resources Planning Board?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that will be part of the data -- a lot more.

Q Published sometime in the near future?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, you have already -- you have already had recommendations up there for extension of Social Security, such as domestic health, and foreign labor, and so forth. Do you intend to go farther than that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I will send the data up, Pete. I think you had better stop there, and not speculate. That ought to hold everybody. It will -- it will take the people who read it and study it a long, long time just to know what all this data is about.

MR. GODWIN: Well, possibly this is a question that you don't want to discuss, but the general understanding is, among fellows that cover this situation, that you were advised that it might present a controversial issue. And, this is rather a direct question -- why should it be controversial?

THE PRESIDENT: Not as to objective, really.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Not the objective, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not objective -- method.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) No -- the method.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. In other words, it's a perfectly legitimate thing. People are more or less agreed on an objective. As I said yesterday, it would be a great pity for the objective to be lost through disagreement on details. And there are, of course, a good many ways of arriving -- a good many different kinds of methods of arriving at the goal -- the objective. And also, the method of arriving at the objective is, very simply, a -- a Congressional function. They make the laws.

Q Mr. President, would timing come in that too?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Does not.

THE PRESIDENT: Timing?

Q Timing.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q Mr. President, Speaker Rayburn the other day said that he was entirely satisfied with the cooperation that he had with you, but that the agencies of the Government would in fact have to change their method of approach. Can you tell us anything about what changes are going to be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never -- I never saw it.

Q Well, there was a sentence to that effect in his speech.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I never saw it.

Q I wondered whether he had worked out with you as to how these agencies could work with the people on the Hill, in the way that they do not, now?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't very well discuss it, because I never saw it. I am sorry you cannot have any issue on that.

Q Mr. President, are you planning any specific legislation and recommendations to the Congress soon?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. You will have to -- you will have to wait and see.

Q Mr. President, the last time I asked you about the problem of absenteeism, you asked me if I would give you figures.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I have to report, sir, that I went to Mr. (Paul V.) McNutt (Chairman, War Manpower Commission) and tried to get some, and Mr. McNutt's able assistants told me that they didn't have any that were valuable. At the same time recently, both (Vice) Admiral (Emory S.) Land (U. S. Maritime Commission) and Mr. McNutt have said that absenteeism is a great problem. Is there anything now that you can say on it, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's awfully difficult to, because I don't suppose we have got figures for the country on it -- I don't suppose anybody has. And also I suppose in time of peace there is a tremendous amount of absenteeism in every plant in the country. It's very difficult to say anything about it, because I don't suppose, as I said before, that anybody knows how the figure today compares with the figure of two or three years ago. I also suppose that in some particular plants it's very little, and in others it's a great deal more. I am -- I am sort -- sort of stuck in talking about it too. We haven't -- I haven't got, at least, any general national

figures on the subject. I wish I could. Unless some -- some agency has got figures, I don't see how we can generalize.

Q Mr. President, I saw one statement, I think, that absenteeism caused the loss of about 10 times as much as strikes did.

THE PRESIDENT: As what?

Q As strikes. I wonder if that could be based on any definite ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I also saw a story about one particular plant that had 6% of absenteeism. Now, is that for that plant, or is it a regional or local thing, or is it a national thing? Now, of course, the amount of time lost in strikes is nothing like 6% -- nothing like it -- hasn't been for the last two years. I don't guarantee that 6% figure, because I just read the headline. (laughter)

Q It would work out about that way, because the amount lost from strikes ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- is something like seven-eighths of one percent.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, there was a line in your speech yesterday that has given rise to some question, and if it could be cleared up it would be very helpful. When you told Congress that -- that Congress might have the great honor of helping to free ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I said that the possibility.

Q The possibility.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Were you -- did you mean to predict the possible end of the war in 1944?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I was expressing the hope, that was all. I think --

I don't think I can define the word "possibility" any further than that -- possibility. But that isn't news.

Q Mr. President, in Congress yesterday I was rather surprised that when you referred to measures against the black market that not any applause resulted there. I was wondering if you were a little surprised too? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. Don't say I wasn't surprised or that I was surprised. I didn't really -- I tell you -- as a matter of fact, as you know, in making a speech you very often end a sentence that contains two or three thoughts on either a strong note or a weak note, depending on which thought is put at the end. Well, in that particular sentence the reference to a black market was the weakest of the thoughts. It wasn't written for applause. And, of course, the reason is very simple: we haven't got much black market today, taking it by and large. We have got -- we are threatened with black markets, of course. And I put it down, really, to forestall the possibility of efforts to create black markets later on. But it was a new thought, and only -- it was intended as a sort of a warning against something that might happen in the future. I don't think there is much black marketing today in this country.

Q Mr. President, there is a good deal of discussion on Capitol Hill about the possibility of the (Beardsley) Ruml (Chairman of the New York Federal Reserve Bank) Plan being enacted, to readjust the 1942 and 1943 income taxes. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose it's a -- it's a -- I think we are all in favor of getting onto a pay-as-we-go basis. It will make it a

lot easier, instead of on income taxes trying to save out -- in the course of 1942, let us say -- the actual income tax which we have to pay in 1943. It's a very difficult thing for us to find those savings during 1942 -- we all know that -- put it in the bank, so that the money will be there when it comes time to pay it. So we are all in favor of as much pay-as-you-go as you can. If you don't have money in your pockets you don't spend it.

Now, the real problem on all of these plans and modifications of them is whether the -- whether we will have to omit entirely the payment to the Government of a certain portion of the present receipts.

And with all the variations, whether they are called Ruml Plan or something else, the real problem is to get onto a pay-as-you-go basis, paying your back taxes and your current taxes both.

And a lot of people think that the only way to do it is to forgive to the individual either all or a portion of one year's taxes. Well, that's awfully nice from the point of view of the individual, but it means that the poor old Treasury is out of pocket just that much money.

MR. GODWIN: When? When is out of pocket?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: When is it out of pocket?

THE PRESIDENT: For good. For good and all.

MR. GODWIN: Isn't the day of reckoning always put off further and further, like the guy that starts home from a hangover? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No, because some of these plans call for -- well, let's take the individual case -- you or me. In getting onto a pay-as-you-go

basis, you would be forgiven during 19 -- what? -- 43, the payment -- actual payment of taxes on your income in 1942. You would be forgiven a portion of what, under the present law, you owe to the Government. Now that's grand for you and me, but it hurts terribly the case of the Treasury. It gets less money.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not immediate -- not immediate. The Treasury gets just as much money because we are taxing you on the pay-as-you-go basis.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But the Treasury is out of pocket, because you have been forgiven something that you now owe on your 1942 income.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That's the trouble.

Q (continuing) --- doesn't the Treasury get the same amount of dollars in the same number of years? Isn't it a bookkeeping item?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q In 1943 wouldn't that give them the same amount of dollars that they would otherwise ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Let's take a period -- 10 years. In 10 years they would not get the same amount of money, because 1942 would have been partly forgiven.

Q Mr. President, doesn't that practically -- it practically mean simply collecting -- isn't it a matter of collecting out of a man's estate?

THE PRESIDENT: I hadn't thought of it in that light at all. Of course, if you die in the next 10 years, I suppose something else happens.

Q The man would keep on paying his taxes from year to year, and if the Ruml Plan goes through, he wouldn't owe an income tax, which is to be collected out of his estate?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that part still is a little far in the future, ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, you don't mean ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- might live a long, long time. In the meantime, they might change the tax laws on us.

Q Mr. President, wouldn't that loss, so far as the Treasury is concerned, be spread over the lives of all the present taxpayers?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's true. But in the long run you have got to take some period -- you are a bit younger than I am -- but we might -- might live -- you have got to say how long -- you have got to do it on an actuarial basis. That is the real answer.

Q But it wouldn't be an immediate loss to the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no. But it would be an ultimate loss.

Q Would it be an ultimate loss, Mr. President, unless at some future time you returned to the present basis of paying income taxes? I can see that. If that time came you would have lost the income for a whole year, but if you go onto a pay-as-you-go basis and continue -- I can't see where -- I don't want to get involved --- (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's the way we all feel! (more laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(continued laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I want to tell you something. The other day I had fun with

a questionnaire, getting a farm truck.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Two pigs got out from under the fence. After that the questionnaire was used against me. You try that!

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I love it. That's right. You know what happened to me? Ten years ago a friend of my former law partner -- Harry Hooker -- years ago -- law partner and a friend of his, died and left old Harry Hooker all of his personal things, including a brand-new farm truck.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Harry lives in New York. He hasn't got any farm. He didn't know what to do with it. He gave it to my "Mrs." My "Mrs." doesn't know what to do with it. She gave it to me, and I have got it, I think, up there in Hyde Park -- a brand-new Chevrolet farm truck!

MR. GODWIN: Can't sell it.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't do anything about it. It has got four tires on it.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

T H E

B U D G E T

S E M I N A R

CONFIDENTIAL

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE PRESIDENT

JANUARY 9, 1943

AT 11.15 A.M., E.W.T.

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(Harold Smith, Director of the Budget, and Wayne Coy, Assistant Director, were present at this Press Conference)

MR. SMITH: Good morning, teacher.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, everybody. How are we?

MR. EARLY: Mr. President, ready, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (reading some hand-written notes from Mr. Smith) No, no, no.

MR. EARLY: Aye, aye, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Those are good, these notes. I was going over them last night.

In one place we talk about 400 thousand civilian employees, and then further on we talk about 800 thousand.

MR. COY: 400 thousand are administering the war agencies, and 850 thousand -- less than that -- are administering what we call the non-war agencies. That's the difference.

THE PRESIDENT: How does that 850 thousand compare with previous?

MR. COY: Well, that's a very difficult thing to arrive at.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. COY: We are pretty safe in saying that they total 850 thousand. It's fewer than that, it's about 830 thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. COY: Less than it was in the preceding year by some 20 to 30 thousand employees.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

I guess we are all ready now.

MR. COY: It's a very difficult thing.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. COY: We tried to go back and get actual figures on it.

MR. SMITH: We have a whole background of material on a thing like that.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure.

(to the newspapermen filing in and sitting down on chairs provided) Good morning.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

Q Good morning, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I see a great many people coming in who know nothing about budgets or taxes. Is it all right?

Q That's right. We hope to learn.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Probably the ladies know more about budgets than any of the men here.

Q Not <u>this</u> Budget.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Not <u>this</u> Budget. (laughter)

Q This is our collective "hair shirt." (indicating the Budget Message)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q This is our collective "hair shirt." (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) (to himself, counting the ladies present) 1 -- 2 -- 3 -- 4 -- 5 -- that's about all.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I see that there are only, out of those in the room -- I see only 3 budget experts -- No, 4; and they are all ladies. (laughter) The rest of you men, you don't know a thing about it! (more laughter) Neither do I. It's all right.

There are two things I want to mention beforehand. We really have

got to protect this Budget; we are doing it 48 hours before it goes up to the Hill. So please don't -- don't write about it until it has actually got to Congress on Monday at 12 o'clock. Then the other thing is that the Director of the Budget, so that you will have a chance to write this rather voluminous thing, is keeping over the weekend an expert who can answer more technical questions that are involved in it. So, take your notebook and take down the number. Executive 3300, before midnight tonight. Executive 3308, until eight o'clock Monday morning. And after that, you can't ask any more questions. (laughter)

Q Is there an extension number on that 3300 one, Mr. President?

MR. SMITH: No, that's the number.

Q That goes right through to him?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

MR. COY: If you want to be sure, ask for Mr. J. Weldon Jones.

THE PRESIDENT: I might as well go ahead. I won't read the whole thing, but I can touch on the high spots.

(see Message Transmitting The Budget for 1944, Page V, attached hereto)

(reading, not literally): "I am transmitting the War Budget, exceeding 100 billion dollars, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943."

This represents a maximum program, which is a bit of a change. I have always talked about minimum programs before. This is a maximum program for waging war.

I have put in here certain statements, as you will see as you go

on, which in a sense do not belong in a Budget Message -- more like an Annual Message. But I had to get them in somewhere, and there wasn't any room in the Annual Message, so I put them in here, because the whole thing ties up together.

On the next is the sub-heading "War Expenditures." (see Page V)

(reading, not literally): "The huge and expanding rate of war expenditures shows our determination to equip our fighting forces, and those of our Allies, with the instruments of war needed for victory."

There are a great many illustrations as to the increase, and the reason for calling it a maximum Budget. For example, we know we have got up in airplane production to the rate of 5,500 for the month of December. That is an increasing amount of planes -- everything that goes into them. I don't think we have given out the final figures yet as to what we expect to get in total of planes for the calendar year 1943. I gave you the figures the other day for the calendar year 1942. And all I can say is that the total we are trying to get in 1943 is way up over the 48 and 49 thousand that we have got this past year; a very, very material increase. Not just a little percentage increase, but a big increase.

Same way with ships. We exceeded the -- the hoped for program in 1942, and we are going to build a lot more -- I can't tell you the exact number. Same thing is true of all sorts of things. I think it is all right to give out the figures, as I did the other day, of actual production; but there are definitely military reasons why we are not going to tell everybody how many we are going to do of this,

that and the other thing. One can make deductions from figures of that kind.

As for example, if we were to give out -- take any old item you want to pick -- if we were to point out that in 1943 we are going to increase the number of "that" to a definite figure, people might argue from that that we are putting all our hopes on that particular variety of thing into that particular basket. On the other hand, if the figures show that we are going to cut down, probably the enemy will say, "What's that cut going into? The United States must have something up its sleeve that we don't know about." And they will try to find out what it was.

All I can say is that the total of this is essentially based on the total that we think we can turn out of all kinds of munitions to the capacity of the country. That is the main point. The breakdown of it is not essential, as long as every machine tool, and every assembly plant for all kinds of things, and every worker that is needed to run these tools and this assembling, and every bit of raw material that we can get out of the ground -- all of those things -- are included in this total production. That is in this Budget.

Now of course, also, the thing that may be -- where we are using the total supply of it, as we see it here in the beginning of 1943, by the end of 1943 and we are working toward 1944, if the war is still going on -- I suppose it will be -- the total capacity may be greater. We can't tell. We are not using, just for example, as much manpower in 1943 as we may be able to, if we have to, if we are driven to it in 1944. There are an awful lot of people in this country who could still

be used for war work of one kind or another. So this is total capacity, as we see it at the present time.

(continuing reading): "For the whole of the current fiscal year ---" (see Page V, 6th paragraph, 6th line) Well, here's an illustration of that paragraph. As I said before, monthly expenditures amounted to 2 billion (dollars) just after Pearl Harbor. They are now beyond 6 billion dollars, and they will average more than 8 billion dollars in the fiscal year 1944.

(continuing reading): "For the whole of the current fiscal year total war expenditures are now estimated at 77 billion dollars; for the next fiscal year at 100 billion dollars."

I also -- I think it is worth pointing out that on that 100 billion (dollars), it's just repetition of what I said. That is all we think it is feasible to spend in this coming fiscal year. It isn't as high as the -- obviously -- as the total requests by the Army and Navy, because we don't think, as I said before, as of the present time, that we can usefully spend more than 100 billion dollars. If we added up all of their requests, it would have been a great deal more than that.

Thenon the next page -- what is it? -- VI.

Q Mr. President, may we ask the Budget Director what total aggregate figure on expenditures ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q What total aggregate figure would be correct to use? In the Budget Summary it figures up to about 108 (billion).

THE PRESIDENT: 109 billion.

Q 109?

MR. SMITH: 109.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the way -- what page have you got that on?

MR. COY: First page, Mr. President. (See Page XX of Summary Budget Statements)

Q First page of this Summary?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. 97 billion for War. That means General and Special Accounts. That's straight. 3 billion for War Government Corporations, which are on Table One, footnote Two; making 100 billion for war. Now, there are -- there are 9 billions more made up of: Other Corporations -- 2 billion; Interest on the Debt -- 3 billion; and Non-War Expenditures -- 4 billion. With the result that this thing that all of you have spent so much ink on is about 4% of the Non-War Expenditures -- of the Total Expenditures. And I call attention to a word which I used the other day: a sense of proportion. I don't have to say any more.

Now on the next page you come down to the Table (see Page VI) -- I think that's the easiest thing to jump to. On these expenditures for war -- 100 billion (dollars) out of the 109 (billion) -- in this fiscal year we are spending 43 billion for munitions, and the next fiscal year 66 (billion). Military and civilian pay, subsistence and travel -- 15 billion this year, 21 billion next. Industrial construction 15 -- 6 billion this year, and only 2 (billion) next year. In other words, the construction of factories and additions to new plants, and so forth and so on, has gone down -- will go down next year from 6 to 2 (billion). The industrial -- the other construction, which I take it means camps and training stations, and so forth and so on, will

also go down next year from 8 billion to 5 billion. The other war expenditures, including Agricultural Lend-Lease, will go up from 5 to 6 (billion).

Then the last line on that page (VI), (reading, not literally): "In the meantime, there are available about 170 billion dollars of unspent war appropriations and authorizations; about two-thirds of this amount is already obligated or committed; but further appropriations will soon be needed to permit the letting of contracts with industry for the next year."

Always bearing in mind the old difference -- still nobody in the country understands the difference between an authorization and an appropriation.

If we need other appropriations to plan production in advance, and the present appropriations have only limited transferability now, if we do need -- I take it I am correct in saying this -- if we have an appropriation which can't be transferred and is needed for something else, obviously the Congress has got to give us authority to transfer it.

MR. SMITH: Right.

Q Mr. President, some gentlemen on the Hill have suggested -- this is recently -- that we have plenty of finance in the war effort for 12 months with this 170 billion dollars -- more than 12 months. And from their statements I take it that they favor just stopping war appropriations until this 170 billion dollars has got whittled down by a considerable amount. What would happen if they did that?

THE PRESIDENT: We couldn't let contracts. We just plain couldn't let contracts.

MR. SMITH: The program too has been changed, Mr. President -- Allies and what-not -- so that appropriations and authorizations for certain things are no longer needed in the same amount, and Congress would then have to do a whole program of re-adjustment.

Q Yes.

Q Mr. President, how much in that 170 billion dollar figure is represented in the appropriations, and how much in authorizations?

MR. SMITH: All appropriations -- but in these terms.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. SMITH: (continuing) You can think of an appropriation now -- because it has to be made in advance, for some little period in advance -- virtually in the same terms that you used to think of authorizations as distinct from appropriations. They are one and the same thing.

Q One other question, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) And, you know, some of the legislation has been in authorization form only, without an appropriation, but has authorized the obligation of certain amounts, although they haven't been appropriated.

Q That's right. My question ---

Q (interposing) Mr. President, the recommended appropriations as I get it for 1944 are 87 billion, 8 (hundred million dollars).

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) How much is that War?

MR. COY: (interposing) About 50 -- that is Table 1-A, isn't it?

Q No, Table 7 on (Page) A26 (Summary Budget Statements), the final ---

MR. COY: (continuing) 80 billion dollars is for War -- 80 billion and a

half.

Q (interjecting) 80 billion and half.

MR. COY: (continuing) You will find it in Table 1-A of the (General Budget) Summary -- Roman numeral (Page) XXII. The Summary states: for War Activities, 80 billion. Interest on the Public Debt, 3 (billion). All Other Activities on an appropriation basis at 4 billion and 3.

Q Where does the -- 2 -- 3 -- the rest of the 9 billion come from?

MR. COY: This is an appropriation basis you are talking about. The other is an expenditure basis, which includes Corporations.

Q Oh, I see.

Q Mr. President, could we ask how much of that 170 billion dollars already appropriated will be expended in the last 6 months of fiscal year 1943, and how much in total fiscal 1944, and how much is left over after ---

MR. SMITH: (interposing) It is very difficult to answer that. I think we will have to dig up some information on that. It's very difficult.

Q Mr. President, on the Table (on Page VI), Munitions covers all the implements of war, does it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Planes, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- and tanks and guns ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- and everything else?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q I notice you differentiate Agricultural Lend-Lease. I suppose Lend-Lease now, so far as separate appropriations are required, is largely for civilian goods? That is Munitions?

THE PRESIDENT: Nearly all Munitions.

Q Well, the bulk of it is for Munitions, but under your general powers of making war you can transfer munitions to any Ally. That is, there is a distinction between civilian goods and Lend-Lease and Munitions to that extent, as I have noticed that this is differentiated there?

MR. SMITH: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right. But, of course, nearly all of the Lend-lease is actually Munitions.

Q I understand that.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, for instance -- I don't see why I shouldn't use it -- to take a concrete case -- I don't know, I guess you had better not use it, but I can give you the case just the same -- I don't want to stir up the animals in North Africa -- (laughter) -- the country ought to -- ought to understand that there are a lot of people who say, "Why the blazes should we send food to all those people in North Africa?"

Well, the answer was that after the fall of France in 1940, Vichy came so much under German domination, and was trying to buy the Germans to stay out of the rest of France, that they acceded to a great many German demands. And one of the German demands was that they should get a tremendous amount of food -- wheat, and so forth and so on -- out of North Africa. So for two whole years and a half, North Africa was being stripped absolutely bare of food. They used all their reserves. They sent them over to France, which, of course,

if they were used in Unoccupied France relieved Germany of the necessity of feeding the population of Unoccupied France. But we have a very definite suspicion -- it's one of those things we can't prove -- that a very large part of the food out of North Africa went to Occupied France, Belgium, Holland, and even to Germany and Italy. But the net result was, when we went in there, that the North African wheat situation was terrifically bad. They didn't have any wheat to keep them going until the next -- the next wheat crop. And the same thing was true of almost everything that they produced in the way -- in the way of food.

Now after all, we have so far -- rap on wood (suiting the action to the word) -- except for the first four days -- had the cooperation of the government -- whatever it was -- and the people in North Africa.

And there are two reasons for giving them some food to keep going until the next crop season. The first is the very practical reason of keeping them with us on our side, and the other is a humanitarian reason; and they are both equally valid. If there were only one of them it would be perfectly valid. There happen to be two -- the military reason, and the humanitarian reason.

But the total amount of -- in terms of dollars -- of Lend-Lease stuff that will go to North Africa during the next few months is very small compared with the dollar value of Munitions.

And this -- this should not be used -- there are -- Oh, I think it's 3 and maybe 4 French divisions that are actively engaged in fighting on our side down there -- over in Tunis. And we have had to provide all kinds of munitions for those French troops. Remember

that they are trained troops. But when we went in there, they had mighty little ammunition left. It also happens that the French ammunition is one of those -- small arms -- we can't help them at all, because it's -- it's the wrong size calibre. Our ammunition won't fit their guns. And you can't simply go to a Bridgeport rifle factory -- bullet factory and change the size. You would have to retool entirely.

So, as I said -- this shouldn't be used -- the -- we will have to send rifles over to them -- our calibre of rifle, and re-arm them with American guns, because they haven't got enough ammunition for their own rifles. Same thing is true of artillery. Same thing is true of -- of trucks, because the trucks that they have -- the French army has in North Africa, by this time they are all over 3 years old, and we have got to give them hundreds of trucks. Their trucks are all worn out. We have given them tanks.

Q Mr. President, that is in support of a direct military operation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Where it's in support of a direct military operation, is that set up on the books as Lend-Lease?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, there isn't any.

Q Sir?

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any. I don't know of any instance.

Q. Mr. President, you are furnishing these rifles, and you are furnishing these tanks. Are any books kept on it, or is it simply part of our own war effort?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. That's all kept.

Q Kept -- charged to Lend-Lease?

Q That was just the point I was making, that after we went into war there was a fundamental change in Lend-Lease, in that at that point it didn't make any difference whether our own soldiers used the guns, or whether we sent them to Russia or to England. It was all part of the war effort.

THE PRESIDENT: It was part of the war effort. But I don't think in every case, but in most cases, it's put down on the Lend-Lease books.

Q Mr. President, does the 100 billion dollars for war activities include anticipated Lend-Lease expenditures?

MR. SMITH: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. SMITH: May I clarify the appropriation aspect of it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. SMITH: The point is that Lend-Lease now includes those items which are furnished by the Department of Agriculture -- namely food -- or through the Procurement Division of the Treasury. All the Munitions items will come out of, in the main, regular appropriations ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. SMITH: (continuing) --- to the Army and Navy.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. SMITH: (continuing) That's the distinction.

Q As I recall, Mr. President, only 18 billion dollars was appropriated -- authorized by Congress on Lend-Lease, but the Army and Navy and Maritime Commission have already transferred over 41 billion dollars to provide just about that.

MR. COY: The last Lend-Lease Report of December 11, (1942), gives the summary of that, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, I think ---

MR. COY: (continuing) --- as I recall the figures myself on it.

Q Mr. President, is there a specific appropriation request for Lend-Lease, or is that impossible because of the statutory expiration?

MR. SMITH: There will be.

MR. COY: They have appropriations made directly to Congress -- someone referred here a moment ago -- about 12 billion dollars, I think.

Q I asked for next year. Is there a request?

MR. COY: No, not for next year, because the Act expires June 30, and until then it would not be set up for it.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Then the next heading is really on Manpower. And we didn't have room -- strictly speaking it ought not to go into a Budget Message. I just touched it very lightly in the Annual Message, but the rest of it is here. It runs through Manpower, Equipment, Materials, and War Contracts to Page VIII.

The one thing I want to call attention to in the War Contracts sub-division is that this is the controlling objective: maximum production, not only for the original negotiations of contracts but also for the renegotiation required by law. I think that can be made very valuable, and somebody suggested that it ought to be repealed. I don't think it ought. There are constantly a lot of new things which come up, and I think you can certainly have the right of renegotiations.

Well, on the "Farm and Food Program," ---

Q (interposing) Sir, could I ask one more question before you go into the next chapter?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q There is the -- does the differential here between those total estimated budget expenditures for the fiscal year of 100 thousand -- 100 billion dollars on a war basis, or 109 billion dollars on a total basis, and recommended appropriations -- I think it was 87 billion, ---

MR. COY: (interjecting) That's correct.

Q (continuing) -- is that discrepancy due to the fact that you don't -- is a part of that discrepancy due to the fact that you don't include recommended appropriations for Lend-Lease?

MR. COY: No. The discrepancy is that you make your contracts for Munitions in one year, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

MR. COY: (continuing) --- and you don't get the -- pay out your money until the goods have been delivered.

Q (interjecting) Yes.

MR. COY: (continuing) You may contract in the middle of 1942 but you get it in the middle of 1943, by fiscal year 1944. It's a matter of -- this expenditure and summary table is on the basis of checks paid.

Q The reason I asked the question was because the President said that this 100 billion dollars total war expenditures included Lend-Lease. Obviously the recommended appropriations do not.

MR. COY: It includes that part of the War and Navy Department expenditures which are transferred under Lend-Lease.

Q. (interjecting) I understand.

MR. COY: (continuing) That's -- that's the reason there isn't any difference between them. All of the appropriations for Lend-Lease -- as to munitions -- are War, Navy and Maritime Commission appropria-

tions. But what the amount will be that is transferred isn't set out here, because we don't know.

Q The 87 billion will keep your plant at maximum effort -- will keep the plant at maximum effort ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's the real point.

Q (continuing) --- for the coming fiscal year?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's the real point, that we are turning out everything we possibly can, even though the Army and Navy want us to turn out more.

Q You are not letting them -- your contracts go up to keep the plant at maximum effort?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Isn't that in reality 87 billion plus the portion of that 170 billion which may be expended?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that's right.

MR. COY: You see, in that fiscal year you will spend 100 billion dollars for war.

Q I know. I did not get the point you made on renegotiations.

THE PRESIDENT: I said that I hope we still will be allowed to renegotiate.

Q Oh.

Q The Army alone has recaptured a billion of the excess profits, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, could you give us any idea of how much more the Army and Navy wanted?

THE PRESIDENT: It's awfully hard to break it down. Well, I will give you a very simple example, off the record entirely. We need an awful lot

more escort ships, and they would like to have a -- I don't know, what? -- say -- take any old figure -- 600. That is the military need -- there is a military need of 600, but we can only build 400. We have only got the capacity to build 400.

Well now, it never got beyond the recommending stage of that particular thing on the part of the Navy, or more than verbal recommendations from the Chief of Operations and the Secretary of the Navy to me, "We want 600"; and, of course, for strategical reasons.

And thereupon we put it into the works; and on all the Joint Production Boards, and so forth, we figure that we can't build -- haven't got the facilities, material, and so forth, especially machinery, to build more than 400. That is why I say it's a little bit difficult. It's only a verbal request on the part of the Navy for 600. You can't do it. So we give them the maximum we can work in.

Well, that's -- you take another example, which you probably will bump into pretty soon. This has all got to be off the record, but there is no reason why you shouldn't know about it: (Wm.) Jeffers (National Rubber Director) wants, for making rubber, a lot of very special machinery for these synthetic rubber plants. Well, he thinks it's terribly important; and it is, too. And on the other hand, if we allocate -- that is -- that is a good illustration of the problem of priorities -- if we allocate this machinery to making rubber, we have got to take it away from something else -- ship engines, for example. In places ---

MR. COY: (interposing) These same escort ships.

THE PRESIDENT: What? -- these same escort ships. We may have to, in some places, where there is a great power shortage, we may have to stop

making turbines, or coal or oil power machinery, in order to turn it over to Jeffers's -- Jeffers's rubber plants; or we may have to take machinery that is allocated to high octane gas for airplanes. There isn't enough machinery to go around for Jeffers's plants, and high octane gas, and essential -- certain essential new power plants, most of them private, by the way, and -- and escort ships. There isn't enough machinery manufactured to take care of them all.

Therefore, you come down to the problem -- we have got to -- we have got to figure on the total capacity. Somebody has to get less. Then you come into the military field, and obviously somebody -- usually the Commander in Chief -- has to decide this thing.

We have got to turn out considerable octane gas for American planes. I should say probably that came -- they are all important, they are almost equally important, but there isn't enough to go around -- I would say octane gas Number One.

Machinery for these escort ships Number Two.

And on the question of new turbines for power in the rubber plants, that probably would be in the third position.

We have got to keep the planes flying. We have got to escort the convoys that are going all over the world. And you can't do them all. And of course, each person who has got those things under their own personal supervision, they say, "Mine is more important than any other living thing." They all say that.

Q Wouldn't there be more of these things, Mr. President, if the size of the Army wasn't so great?

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No.

Q (continuing) Demobilization, training, and equipment ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. That wouldn't affect it at all. I am talking about things that would be used for fighting.

Q Mr. President, on the matter of Manpower, this Budget is predicated, is it not, on the idea that the enlisted personnel is 7 million 500 thousand?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q On the -- on the record, sir, is it anticipated that by the end of 1943, I believe, we will have an armed force of -- totaling some 9 million ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That counts the Army and Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Q Coast Guard.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Now on that basis, sir, will the expenditures for the last -- will the production for the last half of fiscal year 1943 -- first half of 1944, which ends December, 1943 -- be sufficient to supply that Army?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it will. And when I say that, we have got to remember this, that the boys who get taken into the Army and Navy in the last quarter of the year don't have to have artillery, for example, until they are trained and ready to go -- division artillery. On the other hand, they do have to have uniforms, and they have plenty of things to keep them going during their training period. But they won't be -- more in the case of the Army -- they won't be put into form and ready to go in combat divisions until pretty close to a year after the time they come in.

Q Do some of these large Army requests which they had in reflect empirical planning rather than strategical?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No.

Q Not any more?

THE PRESIDENT: That figure was much higher then. Off the record, I think you remember that (Major General Lewis B.) Hershey (Selective Service Director) wanted 15 million men in the Army. Well, he got 7 million point five.

Q (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That was empirical.

Q (continuing) --- in connection with these -- the need for escort vessels, I recall that Mr. (Winston) Churchill said a few days ago that at least the British cargo vessel of the future would be a combination combat ship -- freight-carrying and ship-armed -- that would dispense with the need for combat vessels. I was wondering if we had taken that into consideration for the future?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, again off the record, I think it would surprise you to know what armament many of our cargo vessels are carrying at the present time. You see, the -- well, during the World War, most of our cargo ships carried one 3-inch gun on the stern. And during this war we have been going up steadily, so that the -- many of the -- especially these new cargo ships, carry not only a gun forward and a gun aft, but they also carry a lot of anti-aircraft stuff, depending a little on what run they are on. If the ships are going to Russia, they have got a lot of anti-aircraft.

Q Mr. President, you have been talking on and off the record. I wonder if we ought not to have an explanation of just how much, or just under what conditions we can use all of this conversation?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we should use any of it, except -- well, it's

all right to use the question about the thing -- on Manpower -- that was empirical, and what was practical. I think you can use that.

Q And the fact that this is predicated on a 9-million man ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- Army for all the Services?

Q I had in mind, Mr. President, in previous years, that these conferences had never been quoted -- it's just background. Is that still the rule?

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, no quotes, that's all.

Q Direct attribution, but no quotes?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q On this food situation in North Africa, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

Q The food situation in North Africa you commented about?

THE PRESIDENT: That's off the record entirely.

Q That's wholly off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

On the "Farm and Food Program" -- (see Page VIII, end of line 4 under this heading) -- (reading): "Our agricultural production is larger than ever in history." And I have got some figures in here: that production in 1942 was 29% above the 1935 to 1939 average.

Q Where is that?

Q What?

Q What?

THE PRESIDENT: Bottom of Page VIII -- you won't find the figures -- I am just giving you some extra figures ---

Q (interposing) May we have that figure, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What? This is just a little surprise. You can use that. (laughter)

Q What was that figure?

Q We didn't get that?

THE PRESIDENT: 29% above the 1935 to 1939 average.

Q What year is that for, sir?

Q (aside) 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: That is for 1942. And it was 15% above 1940.

Q That's food production?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Now if you want to put it another way -- by the index method: Food Crops and Livestock, 1940, is 111; 1941 is 115; 1942 is 128. And we are estimating for 1943 -- 130 (percent).

Q That is based on an index of 1935 to 1939, Mr. President?

MR. COY: (interposing) That index figure is 100%. That is where you started from.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And that is based on what I mentioned before, the average of 1939 -- 1935 to 1939, which is 100.

On this agricultural thing -- I don't know, you will have to study -- study it out and telephone to the Budget and get some more information.

(reading): "I am recommending ---" This is Page IX, first four paragraphs. (continuing reading): "--- recommending 837 million dollars for the fiscal year 1944." -- which is up 121 million from 1943. That is Aids to Agriculture, but it does include 193 (194) million of parity payments which were not covered in the 1943 Budget.

Q Mr. President, parity payments already ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q (continuing) Parity payments already incurred from last year's production?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. And of that 837 (million dollars), a very rough breakdown is on the next line. (continuing reading): "--- 400 million for Conservation and Use of Agricultural Land Resources; 194 million for parity payments on the 1942 crops."

There's another example where the Congress did not appropriate the money, but did authorize the making of contracts for the crop year 1942. So it's an obligation, and now we are asking for the appropriation -- make good on it.

Q Does some of that arise, Mr. President, from the fixing of farm prices, at least parity, and the calculation that the Government's payment will return parity?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, the ---

MR. SMITH: (interposing) May I clarify the point, Mr. President? It's a little complicated, because you are working on a fiscal year basis. On the other hand, Agricultural, military, and air production is based on the other. But in short, heretofore we have appropriated a year in advance, really, for what would be next year's crop. So in order to adjust that last year we had to have an authorization, because it was better to have the appropriation after you knew approximately what the costs of parity would be for the past year's crop. It's -- I hope you get my point.

MR. COY: It's explained in the next few paragraphs very well.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. SMITH: But that was purely a suggestion of -- of the skip for last

year, in order to adjust what we thought was rather an anomalous situation.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the other item is 96 million for Surplus Commodities; 64 millions for the Sugar Act; 38 million for the Farm Security, and 31 million for reductions in interest rates on farm mortgages.

Q Can you explain that latter, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What about that farm mortgage, Wayne? Bank paying things off?

MR. COY: Yes, that's right. Keeping the interest rate at the low figure -- you want to keep your reduction rate into effect, so this represents a 31 million reduction on interest on your farm mortgage. It has been carried now for about 3 or 4 years.

THE PRESIDENT: Every year I get at the end of the Session -- nearly always -- a bill to continue for another year, or two years, the reduction in the interest rates on farm mortgages below the original Act.

Q That was the Federal Land Bank loans?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, Mr. Lawrence asked a question a minute ago that interested me very much. H e didn't get any answer to it. As he understands it, the O.P.A. has in certain places fixed price ceilings at a level below the parity price. Is any of this appropriation here designed to compensate the farmer by paying him the difference between the O.P.A.'s ceiling and the parity price?

MR. COY: That would be true if the commodity O.P.A. fixed the price on was one of the basic commodities on which you are making parity payments. There are the five basic commodities. It would not be true in all -- in all cases where the prices are below parity, because it wouldn't

be a basic commodity. There are five of them.

Q I see. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the next two paragraphs are explanatory -- (see Page IX, paragraphs 2 and 3). And the paragraph next to the end of the page:

(reading, not literally): "Since the established national policy is to assure the cooperating producers of these basic crops parity prices on the normal yields of their allotted acreages, I am again recommending that the authority to incur contractual obligations for such payments on future crops be renewed.

"On the other hand, I am recommending a reduction of 50 million dollars in the appropriation for Conservation and Use of Agricultural Land Resources. I am also directing the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the 400 million still provided ---"

That is an authorization.

"--- under this heading as fully and effectively as the basic law will permit to encourage greater production of the crops necessary to the war effort. This fund will not be used for restriction of production except of the less-needed crops. Payments to be made only to those producers who comply fully in their plantings with the stated war production goals."

And that previous sentence, on restriction of production except as to less-needed crops, I have had one or two examples -- I have had pleas from 3 or 4 individuals who grow things -- I am not going to mention any data on it -- who grow things that you and I would consider luxuries -- luxury goods -- those you put into your mouth. And we can get on without them. So we are encouraging those people to

transfer their plantings from the luxury article and put it into something that everybody can use.

Q Can you mention the crops, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's better not to, because they would say -- some of them would say that it isn't a luxury.

Q Mr. President, not to try to get you to mention them, but off the record, could you indicate what your purpose is? Does it apply only to certain foods, or could it apply, for example, to a crop that has a surplus, such as cotton?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I don't think so.

Q (continuing) You see what I mean?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) If we are paying them to grow more cotton, or if we are paying them to cut down on table crops ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think there's anything we can do on cotton. We just have to go ahead on the present basis, isn't that right?

MR. SMITH: To this extent. The acreage -- cotton acreage has been progressively reduced each year. Although you are getting better production of cotton shipped, the number of bales on the same land you get is about the same. But to the extent that the cotton -- cotton acreage is reduced, that land is then available for other crops, and they may be crops such as soy beans, and what-not -- oil-producing products.

Q That -- on that point, are these payments calculated in that direction too, when you say restriction of production except of less-needed crops?

MR. SMITH: I should say that all our payments on the Department of Agriculture are being oriented to make adjustments in their program of present production -- things that are needed during the war, and that the amounts of money in the Budget for the Department of Agriculture are being used more and more as incentive payments to get that marginal production of things that sometimes -- of an unusual nature -- are needed now.

Q Is this a policing instrument on this essential food program?

THE PRESIDENT: Is it what?

Q Is this a kind of policing instrument?

MR. SMITH: (interposing) Incentive.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. SMITH: An incentive.

THE PRESIDENT: It's an incentive, I suppose. I think that's the right word -- plant useful crops.

Q In other words, you might take crops out, like lettuce and watermelon?

(laughter)

Q (aside) Watermelon is a necessity.

THE PRESIDENT: The next paragraph -- (see Page X) -- (reading): "For Exportation and Domestic Consumption of Agricultural Commodities, the Budget includes only the permanent annual appropriation of 30 percent of customs revenues as provided by law, plus re-appropriation of unobligated balances."

Well, that I think should not be construed as a yielding on my part to that thing which was forced on me a good many years ago, of ear-marking a portion of the revenue for some particular purpose. It's bad legislation, and it still is. It's in -- in -- in the theory

of legislation, and the theory of customs and receipts and of the Treasury, however, and I am not making any fuss about it.

(continuing reading the same paragraph): "The food-stamp plan, which is a major item of the current program, will be discontinued shortly. Although other items such as school lunch, and school milk projects, and the direct distribution of surplus commodities are somewhat expanded, there will be an over-all reduction of about 30 million dollars."

Q Mr. President, why will that be discontinued?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Why is the food-stamp plan being discontinued?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, because -- because essentially it's a relief -- two-edged -- it was relief, and getting rid of surpluses. Now we don't need to get rid of surpluses any more. And there isn't anywhere as much relief needed as there was before.

Q Haven't both those conditions prevailed for some time?

THE PRESIDENT: Do they -- have they prevailed?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. We had surpluses before we got into the war.

Q No. I mean after the surplus condition ceased to exist?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't get it?

Q But the conditions which brought the food-stamp plan into being ceased to exist quite sometime ago, did it not?

THE PRESIDENT: It has been gradually decreasing. It's just like -- what? -- W.P.A. You don't need it now. But that has been a gradually reducing thing.

Well, I don't think there's anything else -- just the essence there.

(reading): "Civilian Consumption. In spite of a 100-billion-dollar war program, civilians can be supplied with an average of about 500 dollars' worth of goods and services during the next year."

Q Could you stop at that point, Mr. President, and give us comparable figures for the last 2 years on the same basis?

THE PRESIDENT: In 1941 -- that's the next sentence. (reading): "This implies an average reduction of almost 25% in civilian consumption below the record level of the calendar year 1941." That was 76 billions in 1941, and we estimate 58 billions in 1944.

Q Are you talking about calendar year now, or fiscal year, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Those are fiscal year.

MR. COY: (interposing) Calendar.

THE PRESIDENT: Are you sure?

MR. SMITH: It says calendar.

MR. COY: We tried to designate each place where it says fiscal year.

THE PRESIDENT: Calendar.

Q Is there a comparative figure to that 500 (dollars) per capita?

MR. COY: We would have to dig it up for you. Suppose you just add 25%.

Q A mathematician could figure it out, but we can't. (laughter)

MR. COY: About six and a quarter.

THE PRESIDENT: I believe 625, just rule of thumb -- 625 dollars per capita, and this in 1944 -- 500 dollars. What?

MR. COY: A 25% reduction, I believe.

Q. Mr. President, could you give us for use with that the national income figures for the 2 years in question -- 1941 and 1944?

THE PRESIDENT: Have we got those?

MR. SMITH: 1944, as I recall, figures out to a national income of about 145 billion.

Q Is that calendar?

Q Calendar or fiscal?

MR. COY: Fiscal.

Q Fiscal 1944?

Q Fiscal? I would rather have calendar on that. (laughter)

Q Calendar 1943?

MR. COY: Calendar 1943 -- about 135 billions in national income. But that figure can be very misleading in trying to get your figure, because when you talk about the amount of goods and services civilians will consume, it doesn't come out of the national income necessarily. It comes out of what these economists call the "gross national product." Don't ask me to explain that -- (laughter) ---

Q (aside) Explain that!

MR. COY: (continuing) --- because I will only repeat what the economists tell me.

Q Mr. President, how does this 500 dollars compare with 1933? Mr. (Leon) Henderson said we are going back to the 1933 level. How does this 500 dollars compare with 1933? I mean, how does the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You remember 1933 we figured, as I remember it, in national income terms to 39 billion or 40 billion.

Q (interposing) I am talking about the 500 dollars.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) How you would translate it into terms of per capita, I don't know.

MR. COY: You would have to ask some of our economists over there to give you the figures.

MR. SMITH: We will have to give you the figures on it.

THE PRESIDENT: You can do it by rule of thumb. You can say 40 billion dollars in ---

Q (interposing) I am not talking about national income, I am talking about the 500 dollars.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. As I say, what was the population of the country in 1933?

Q (interposing) Mr. President, is this 500 dollars during next year? Is that next year, 1944 calendar -- or 1944 fiscal year -- or is it 1944 calendar year?

Q What about that 58 billion dollar figure? Is that 1943 or 1944 calendar year?

THE PRESIDENT: What is it, Wayne?

MR. COY: I don't -- there is so much of it, I will have to read it now, to be sure.

Q I think that's calendar year.

Q It's calendar.

Q It's calendar.

MR. COY: I think the 500 dollar figure applies to the fiscal year basis, because of reference to the 100-billion-dollar program. Then you make your comparison on the calendar year basis to get your reduction, and show what the reduction is going to have to be under this kind of program. Our difficulty here is that the Department of Commerce, for example, gets out an income on a calendar year basis, and you get into some little tricky figuring when you get to translating that to a fiscal year basis.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether the Budget, and the Certified Public

Accountants, and the Committees on the Hill would agree, but I think sometimes -- it's not one of those essential things -- it would be an awfully nice thing if, as has been brought out in the last ten minutes, if we could have legislation making the fiscal year the same as the calendar year.

Q It would be wonderful.

Q It would be wonderful.

THE PRESIDENT: I really don't know. There are all kinds of technical reasons, but I don't know whether we can do it.

Q You promised us that last year.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q You promised us that last year. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. And I have tried, ---

MR. COY: (interjecting) Tried to do it.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but the trouble is it takes legislation, not an Executive Order.

Q Do you plan to request that legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Do you plan to request that legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have asked for it dozens of time. Every time I see old Bob Doughton (Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee) I ask for it. (laughter)

Q Are you going to include that in the post-war program?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Oh, ---

Q (interposing) That 58 billion dollars in goods and services, was that 1944 calendar year, to get back to that one figure?

MR. COY: That's correct.

Q What are the estimates of the calendar year goods and services ---

MR. COY (interjecting) I don't have that.

Q (continuing) --- this year?

MR. COY: (continuing) I don't have that here.

Q Is the 58 billion a translation of the 500 -- the multiplication of the 500?

Q No.

Q No.

(the President began to laugh at the apparent confusion)

Q Can't we go along, Mr. President? It's getting very confusing.

THE PRESIDENT: I think we might go on.

Q Why don't we make Doughton attend one of these sessions? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think so. It's a good idea.

Q (aside) We can't fix that now.

THE PRESIDENT: Now on the -- on the third line from the bottom -- (see Page X, 5th line actually) -- there is one thing which is not in the figures -- the Tables -- that's worth calling attention to -- something additional.

Speaking of living conditions -- (reading, not literally): "Do not let us assume from the previous statement that there is no need for great improvement in the living conditions of a large segment of our population."

Now the average of the lower third of our population has been estimated by some experts for the years 1935 and 1936 at (less than) 780 dollars, and that it has gone up in 1942 -- those are calendar years -- to (less than) 1335 dollars. Right?

Q Is that income, Mr. President?

Q That is income?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q For a family?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q For a family?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's family.

Q What year is that 1335, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: 1935 and 1936 -- No, 1942.

"The Stabilization Program" -- Page XI. And on the last line in that paragraph, "....limited use of subsidies to stimulate needed production," 700 million dollars are now being paid -- that is the annual rate -- based on a narrower definition of subsidies. But it may be slightly reduced this year. Right?

Q May be slightly what?

THE PRESIDENT: Reduced.

Then down at the bottom of that page (XI, 7th line from the bottom) -- (reading): "The stabilization of incomes and the absorption of excess purchasing power by fiscal measures are essential for the success of the stabilization program. I am confident that the Congress will implement that program by adequate legislation increasing taxation, savings, or both. Thus, we will help to 'pay-as-we-go' and make the coming peace easier for ourselves and our children."

Q Mr. President, would you discuss that savings a little more, please?

THE PRESIDENT: That what?

Q With reference to savings, what type of legislation on savings?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, one thing Budget wanted, and I wanted, but more

specifically the problem of taxes -- increased taxes and increased savings, it was perfectly impossible to be too specific, because after all the legislation is written on the Hill. There are all kinds of different forms. You can increase, let us say, the question of savings. You can do it a number of ways, either by voluntary savings, where we have this system that is working today pretty well -- nearly up to a billion a month -- or you can have a system of compulsory savings, or you can have a system of both.

Q You wouldn't need any legislation would you, Mr. President, for voluntary savings?

THE PRESIDENT: No. When you talk about implementing ---

Q (interposing) You are talking about forced savings, aren't you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Wouldn't you consider the Victory Tax a form of forced savings?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Savings are best defined by, I suppose -- by the statement that it is money belonging to an individual which will be repaid to the individual sometime after the war.

Q Is it your idea, Mr. President, as it is Mr. (James F.) Byrnes's (Economic Stabilization Director), that the bulk of this projected increase should be in direct -- in savings rather than in added taxes, that the great majority of the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Probably -- that's the trouble. You can't make a didactic statement like that, because it depends on a combination. For instance, one way would be to increase the 5% Victory Tax to 10%, ---

Q (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- or to leave that out and increase the --

the compulsory, putting in so much a month out of your salary. There are so many combinations that you can't work out figures on it until you know what the combination is going to be.

Q What I mean, Mr. President, is in your own mind on this 16 billion additional which you seek next year, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) --- would you rather have that in the form of what we have always called taxes? By that I mean ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I would say a combination.

Q (continuing) By that I mean, I want to know where the weight is? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you will have to ask the Congress that, because they pass the legislation.

Q I want to know <u>your</u> mind.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. You will have to stick to this Message.

Q Would it be wholly a question of the form of the tax? The Treasury advocated what is known as a spending tax, which has a greater compulsory feature than the Victory Tax.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's another element, another possibility. And there are several forms of that.

Q How do you like the spending tax?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q How do you like the spending tax?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't tell you because -- because there are some forms I never heard of. I was talking about it the other day to -- I think it was Danny Bell (Under Secretary of the Treasury), and he told me that they had been discussing a brand-new form -- (I had) never heard of it.

Q How about the sales tax, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The what?

Q The sales tax?

Q Sales tax?

Q Still against the sales tax?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I think there's something about that in here. I don't know whether it's still in or not. Well now, of course, again, we can't -- we can't write stories without getting out on a limb. What is a sales tax? You have got a sales tax today. Every excise tax is a sales tax. Smoking a cigarette -- it's a sales tax. Take a drink -- it's a sales tax. Damn high, too, a lot of people think. (laughter)

Q (interposing) To put it another way, sir, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) On the other hand, just -- just to illustrate now -- this has got to be off the record, because it's only -- it's only an illustration of a half-dozen different ways of increasing sales -- of increasing excise taxes -- part-way toward a general sales tax.

Now the illustration is, when I was over on the other side, in the summer of 1918, the French government gave me what everybody got, which was a coupon book. And if I went into a restaurant in Paris and bought a -- say, a two-dollar meal, I hauled out my coupon book and gave them -- I paid my two dollars because that was -- that was the cost of the meal -- the price in the restaurant -- I got to take out my coupon and hand them a coupon equivalent to two dollars. Now I paid my two dollars.

I went around to an old print shop on La Rive Gauche, and found

a very, very attractive old print that I had wanted for years and years, and the price was 50 dollars. And I figured out thatamount and gave him the coupons. The man said, "Oh, No. Oh, No. That doesn't apply to luxuries." So I had to pay the 50 dollars for the print, and a 50 -- a 25 dollar tax. So I paid 75 dollars for that print.

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And practically everything had a percentage tax on it. Let us say a 10 dollar item would have a 10 dollar -- a 10 percent tax on [I'?] it -- you paid 11 dollars. And that extra dollar went to the French government. Certain things like household utensils, and food, and a certain amount of clothing you did not have to pay any tax on them; but you had to hand in a coupon.

Now that's -- that's one way of doing it. There are a good many other ways. Now some people would call that a sales tax, with the exemption of -- a general sales tax, with the exemption of certain things. Other people would say there is no sales tax, it's an extension of the present excise taxes.

It's a whole lot of words -- doesn't mean an awful lot, because in -- in the essence, both -- both statements are correct. It's a general sales tax with a whole list of stuff exempted. On the other hand, it's an extension of the present excise tax system. And it's as short as it's long. It depends on what paper you write for. (laughter)

Q On another point, sir, the present Victory Tax, inasmuch as it is simply a blanket exemption (??) is in effect a modifying tax on gross income, rather than a tax based on net income?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q Do you feel a forced savings program that carries the same gross income principle should apply, rather than net and various deductions?

THE PRESIDENT: I think if you can put that a different way, I might agree.

Q You put it the way you want, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. We are talking -- (turning to Mr. Lawrence) -- what was your word? -- empirically now -- a good word. (laughter)

Now next, on Page XII -- "Civilian Controls (In Total War)." (reading, not literally): "About a little over 400 thousand civilian employees of the Federal Government who are engaged ---"

-- third paragraph ---

"--- in the task of civilian administration for total war. They direct and schedule war production; handle the procurement of food, munitions, and equipment for our armed forces and our Allies; supervise wartime transportation; administer price, wage, rent, labor, and material controls and commodity rationing; conduct economic and propaganda offensives against our enemies; and do necessary paper work for the armed forces.

"Besides these Government employees, millions of men and women volunteers ---"

I think it's important to draw -- call attention to the fact -- to the number of Americans who are working for nothing for the war all through the country. They deserve a pat on the back.

Now -- (continuing reading, not literally): "More than a million ---"

-- last paragraph --

"--- more than a million, 6 -- approximately three-fifths of all Federal civilian employees are engaged directly in war production.

They build and load ships, make guns and shells, repair machines and equipment, build arsenals and camps, sew uniforms, operate airports, and signal systems. These are the workers in navy yards, arsenals, storage depots, military airfields, and other operating centers. It is scarcely ethical to try to make people believe that these workers are holding down armchair or unnecessary Government jobs."

Q What did you have in mind there?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Whom on the Hill did you have in mind there?

THE PRESIDENT: You said it. (laughter)

Q Mr. President, that makes 2 million. The million 6, and the 400 thousand make 2 million. What do you figure ---

MR. COY: (interposing) About 2 million, 850 thousand altogether. You can find the reference to another 800 thousand in the Message.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. We are coming to that.

MR. COY: I was just trying to find it.

THE PRESIDENT: It's about 800 thousand more.

MR. COY: It's less than 850 thousand. On Page XIV you get your totals.

THE PRESIDENT: Then comes this thing (Non-War Expenditures). There is no use reading it. It's the same story about Non-War Expenditures. Where can we save? Obviously, certain things. It's up to Congress. They can eliminate certain controls that we have always used.

Then on the top of the next page is what Wayne was talking about. (reading): "All counted, there are less than 850 thousand civilian employees of the Federal Government, including the Postal Service, who are engaged in these so called "non-war" activities."

The Postal Service, incidentally, had 320 thousand employees at the end of 1942.

Then comes the Table, showing the reduction in Non-War Expenditures, which I think in the interest of good ethics should be used. 1939 it was 6 billion dollars for them -- six and a half. 1940 it was 6 billion, 2. In 1941 it was 5 billion, 2. In 1942 it was 5 billion, 125. We estimate this year that it will be 5 billion and -- what? -- it will be 4 billion, 582 -- this year, 1943. And in 1944, the next fiscal year, it figures on down to 4 billion, 124, or a reduction in Non-War Expenditures of 2 billion, 392 million over the 1939 figure.

Q Pretty good bird-shooting there.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Pretty good bird-shooting there.

THE PRESIDENT: Pretty good what?

Q Pretty good bird-shooting there.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Bird-shooting.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

36.7% in 1944, compared with 1939. And of course that has to include that reduction, in spite of the fact that the Veterans' Administration went up 265 million dollars. And outside of this war, which as you probably know is just the Veterans of previous wars, the peak of care for them -- and they are mostly World War now -- some Spanish -- won't be reached until April, 1945.

And -- this is not in, but it's just a little human interest story -- I talked with (Brigadier General Frank T.) Hines two years ago about the question of building more Veterans' hospitals, thinking that we would reach our peak of Veterans -- in numbers -- caring for them -- in five years. Later, Hines and I decided that we ought not

to build any more Veterans' hospitals, but that in 4 or 5 years we should crowd up the existing hospitals -- not build any more buildings -- because after 1945 they would start to go down-hill.

But of course this war has knocked all those figures into a cocked hat, and already we are beginning to take care of a very sizeable number of -- of -- of Veterans in the Veterans' hospitals already -- Veterans of this war. That of course will mount steadily, and one of the -- part of the planning that we are doing, we are having studies made as to the use of these various camps and training stations, at the end of this war, to take care of Veterans. They will probably take care of even the existing plants.

Q Mr. President, is any part of the Interest on the Public Debt included in this Table of Non-War Expenditures?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. COY: No.

THE PRESIDENT: That is roughly 3 billion.

MR. COY: Parenthetically phrased across the Table, "Excluding Interest and Statutory Debt Retirement."

Q Sorry. I just didn't see it.

THE PRESIDENT: Then the last paragraph -- (reading): "The most important reductions recommended for the coming year relate to work relief and general public works. Because of present high levels of employment, I am able to recommend elimination of the Work Projects Administration. This action under present conditions does not cast upon the State and local governments more than the proper burden of financing the relief of those who are unable to work. Expenditures for general public works will be greatly curtailed. Continuing projects are directly

related to war needs. Others have been discontinued as rapidly as this could be done without risking the loss of the investment already made.

"I shall be glad to cooperate with the Congress in effecting further reductions in 'non-war' expenditures through the necessary revision of underlying legislation and in every other way."

Of course, as you all know, the Executive branch is -- has received a mandate on a great many of these things. Congress has told us -- Oh, sometime ago -- way, way back -- dozens of years ago -- that we have to do a task; and it brings up the question of -- as to whether the Congress, in time of war, wants to eliminate -- cut down the thing drastically, and practically give no money for any of the things that are on the statute books, or repeal the mandate. I could have cut a lot of things out, if Congress had repealed the mandate -- I still can -- but as long as the mandate is on the statute books I have to send in an estimate for it. I can do either one. They have got two ways of doing it. Cut out the mandate, or eliminate the appropriation and leave the mandate on the statute books.

And on the Interest -- Oh, Yes -- the last paragraph -- the paragraph before -- (reading): "My recommendations contemplate that in the fiscal year 1944, 96 cents of every dollar expended by the Federal Government will be used to pay war costs and interest on the public debt, and only 4 cents for all the so called 'non-war' purposes."

And then, the Debt is being serviced with interest at about 2%, compared with the 1919 figure -- the previous war -- of 4.2%. In other words, less than half.

Q. Is that 1919, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Could we get a breakdown of the War Expenditures in dollars and cents, and the amount of the Debt in dollars and cents? That is the service on it. It's 96 (cents), and 4 (cents) goes in for Non-War. I was just wondering whether ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Just about.

Q (continuing) --- if the 96 (cents) could be broken down?

THE PRESIDENT: I gave you that in the beginning -- 109 billion (dollars) is the total, of which only 4 billion is for Non-War; 3 billion is for Interest; and 2 billion is for Corporation expenditures; ---

Q (interjecting) Oh, Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and the other hundred (billion) is for war.

Q Mr. President, in this paragraph on Interest (see Page XV), there is a clause -- the last clause says that under existing legislation it will be 3 billion dollars. Can legislation, by increased taxes or some other legislation, make it less than 3 billion, or make it go up beyond 3 billion?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know why.

MR. SMITH: It will be a very large figure, depending upon how the expenditures for fiscal 1944 are financed. In other words, what makes up the 16 billion dollars that you are asking for; how much additional legislation, and how much for borrowing.

Q Mr. President, have you any suggestion as to what you might cut out, if Congress would repeal the mandate you referred to?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. I have talked with them individually about a dozen things. As I have said, the white pine blister rust -- I mention it

again because it's a very good example. I personally happen to be interested in white pine blister rust, because I grow white pines.

Q (interjecting) That is part of the war effort.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I grow white pines. They won't reach maturity until my grand-children come along -- a total of about 80 years. But they may get infected unless -- and ruined so far as lumber goes -- long before that, if we take -- take off the Government's supervision of gooseberries and currants. That's the way it goes, from one to the other. Well, I suppose a lot of people have never even heard of the white pine blister rust. I think it's entirely a Congressional thing. That's Democracy. I wouldn't take it out because I'm growing them.

Q Mr. President, did you cut down the amount for the Anti-Trust Division?

MR. COY: (interposing) Yes, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. I don't know.

MR. COY: (continuing) --- from a million, 8 to -- is it a million, 5? -- a million, 6.

Q A million, 6?

MR. COY: A million, 6.

MR. SMITH: I think it should be pointed out in connection with this, Mr. President, that the 4 billion -- that in that 4 billion you have virtually got 900 million for the Veterans' Bureau alone. And if you go through and analyze it, I think you will see that there are a lot of fixed charges there, and you get down to small items.

We can increase here and there, and cut probably -- cut the amount for it, but you get such items as this: We suggested to the Congress, for example, to pass on a bill which would eliminate the printing of

a whole raft of annual reports, and that bill happens to be still in Congress. When you get your analysis, as we have done in these things, you get those minor changes in policy, or margin changes, with respect to Grants and Aids to the States, for education, for health, for vocational education, and so forth and so on. You see, you get all of these Grants and Aids in here.

I know a lot of people think that some of these discussions are phony on these scores, but you can tie them down very definitely to Congressional legislation, and you have to just submit this and that proposal to them.

Q Would you say then, sir, that on the basis of existing legislation the Non-War Expenditures are at a minimum?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. They can be cut still further. You can cut out Federal Aid to education in the different States, if you want to. You can do all kinds of things.

Q (interposing) On the basis of existing legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That is up to Congress.

Q (interposing) I said on the basis of existing legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You can cut out certain trust funds for employees, ---

Q (interposing) But on the basis of existing legislation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- but it will take legislation, or a failure to appropriate, one or the other. Again, I have got a mandate. In every department we have got all kinds of annual trust funds to set up because of legislation, and each year we put money into the trust fund.

Q Mr. President, did you ever think of closing the Shenandoah National Park?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sure. Shenandoah, and lots of other places. But, how much money can we save?

MR. COY: Mr. President, I would like to point out, in that connection, that the Parks -- National Parks are on a purely maintenance basis, for the most part.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. COY: (continuing) There are a few of them where they are open to the public, because of the large number of soldiers being in them.

THE PRESIDENT: And we are trying to use them all we can.

MR. COY: Well, I know about this Shenandoah Park, but I wanted to take all the Parks and raise the question, and make another point.

THE PRESIDENT: We were talking about Yellowstone. I think all the buildings at the entrance to Yellowstone are recuperating places for wounded soldiers. You can't use Old Faithful Inn because, as I said, it is a fire trap. I wouldn't put anybody in there -- except tourists. (laughter)

Q Because they consume gasoline and tires, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What, what?

Q Because they consume gasoline and tires, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Well, "The Need For Additional Funds" -- (see Page XV) -- we have talked about so often. It means this 100 billion dollars on war expenditures is going to contractors, farmers, and so forth and so on, putting this huge buying power into the hands of the public. And it will create inflation unless we use a part of that buying power to run the war with.

(reading): -- (see Page XVI) -- "We cannot hope to increase tax

collections as fast as we step up war expenditures, or to absorb by fiscal measures alone all excess purchasing power created by these expenditures. We must, therefore, provide a substantial portion of the needed funds by additional borrowing, and we must also use direct controls, such as price ceilings and rationing, for the protection of the consumer. Nevertheless, the more nearly increases in tax receipts follow increases in expenditures, the better we safeguard our financial integrity and the easier the administration of price control and rationing. All of these measures are inter-related. Each increase in taxes and each increase in savings will lessen the upward pressure on prices and reduce the amount of rationing and other direct controls we shall need.

"The revenue acts of the past 3 years, particularly the Revenue Act of 1942, have contributed greatly toward meeting our fiscal needs. In the fiscal year 1944, total general and special receipts under present law are estimated at 35 billion dollars, or almost six times those of the fiscal year 1940. But the increase in expenditures has been even more rapid.

"I believe that we should strive to collect not less than 16 billion dollars of additional funds by taxation, savings, or both, during the fiscal year 1944.

"On the basis of present legislation, we expect to meet 34 percent of total estimated Federal expenditures by current receipts during the fiscal year 1944. If the objective proposed in this Message is adopted, we shall meet approximately 50 percent of expenditures during the fiscal year 1944."

In other words, what we are trying to do is to get the excess to the same old figure we mentioned before -- 16 billion dollars additional.

Q In the second paragraph there, it was estimated 35 billion dollars under existing legislation in 1944 fiscal. Does that include the -- the estimated voluntary sales of war bonds, sir?

Q No.

Q No.

Q How much is that estimated to be?

MR. SMITH: That has no relation to this figure at all.

MR. COY: That would be 10 or 12 (billion).

MR. SMITH: Or 15 billion.

THE PRESIDENT: Around 10 or 12 billion.

Q On this 16 billion in additional savings or taxation, the savings there would not take the form of voluntary purchases of War Bonds? In other words, that would not meet the objective?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Something like the 5% Tax -- the Victory Tax.

Q Mr. President, you want that 16 billion, I take it, primarily from individuals rather than corporations?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't say that. I think both. I think everybody ought to contribute.

Q The individuals are the people who have got the money to spend -- to inflate?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, corporations do too.

Q Mr. President, have you any suggestions as to what portion of taxes and forced savings go to make up this 16 billion?

THE PRESIDENT: No. You see, that's the thing, as I said before -- the

thing so dovetails in. There are so many new plans being talked about you can't be specific, unless you break down each and make a hard and fast allocation -- a ruling -- either before or after the Congress has had time to study it. And if the Congress decides on one thing -- the specific amount -- that has got to be related because of the other things in the same tax bill.

Q Does that mean, Mr. President, that the Secretary of the Treasury has abandoned early plans for an additional 6 billion dollars in taxes, which I believe he announced in November? Has that been abandoned?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes, that's out of date.

Q That's out of date.

Q Mr. President, may we properly say "forced" savings? Is that a fair statement? You say taxation. May we say "forced" savings, or "compulsory"?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you see, there are so many different kinds. You have the 5% -- 5% Victory Tax.

Q I am trying to differentiate between voluntary purchases and obligations, and some type of compulsory. I am not trying to raise any other question at all. We have got to write these stories.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) And it's damn hard, God knows.

Q (continuing) Is there any difference between voluntary and forced savings?

THE PRESIDENT: My own opinion is that we will probably -- this is just guess on my part -- we will use both methods.

Q Thank you.

Q In connection with the 16 billion dollar figure, I believe you said a moment ago that voluntary purchases of that much War Bonds would not

meet the objective?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q (continuing) So it would hardly be voluntary savings; therefore, it must be forced or compulsory savings?

THE PRESIDENT: It will always be a continuation of voluntary savings, as voluntary as -- take a simple figure -- Yes -- voluntary savings -- this 16 billion. Now if we put in some form of compulsory savings, that 16 billion figure is going to drop way down. Therefore, we have to deduct that ---

Q (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- from the total of the objective. We can no longer count it as 16 billion.

Q Isn't that the fear, sir, of what is going to happen to the War Bond sales now, with the Victory Tax in effect?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. That's true.

MR. SMITH: Mr. President, might I say that in terms -- if you think of it as a refundable tax, it means virtually the equivalent of any of these other terms?

THE PRESIDENT: That's another way of putting it.

Q Well, Mr. President, would we be wrong if we said that the President recommended 16 billion dollars in additional taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: Savings.

Q Savings of both enforced and voluntary?

Q No.

Q No, no.

THE PRESIDENT: No. They wouldn't.

Q Savings on some compulsory basis?

Q Cash and refundable taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: Just for example, as Harold says, the Victory Tax refund part of it ---

Q (interposing) I am referring only to savings, Mr. President, not taxation. I assume all the savings will be returned to the person who made the saving.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) But it seems to me that in so far as savings make up part of this 16 billion dollar figure, they would have to be compulsory, or forced, or refundable; in any wise, not voluntary?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. That's right. That's what I was driving at.

Q The only way you can get compulsory savings is through a refundable tax?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Yes.

Now just one -- one other thing, which Wayne called my attention to, and that is: it's not anything new in legislation to have some form of compulsory legislation. Part of the Victory Tax ---

Q (interposing) We are not trying to get you on the "spot." We are just trying to write these stories.

THE PRESIDENT: I am trying to get it clear in my own mind. The Victory Tax is already on the statute books.

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Well, that's a portion of it ---

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- which is refundable. The other part of it is a tax that you don't get back.

Q (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Of course the principle of compulsory savings -- that's the refundable part ---

Q (interposing) I wasn't raising that part at all.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) We have got to make up our minds on what to call it.

MR. SMITH: The difficulty is that these various terms have been used for some time, both forced savings and compulsory savings.

Q What term would you prefer, Mr. Smith?

MR. SMITH: You can use any of them, but it's really a refundable tax -- (laughter) -- it's really a refundable tax. It has got to be a part of the tax bill, though it isn't compulsory -- if you want to put it that way.

Q In other words, sir, are you going to take money away from people by law, and give it back to them by law, rather than ask them ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You can make them give it up by law, and then you have the two things that happen: either they never get it back, or they do get it back. (laughter)

Q Refundable savings, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q Would you call these refundable savings, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Refundable savings.

Q Automatic savings?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course -- of course, as I said at the -- putting it in very, very layman language, we are trying to pay for half of the war in this coming year, instead of a third of it -- a little over a third. And a portion of that money that goes -- 50% -- that goes

for paying the war will go back to the people who put up the money. That's the easiest way of putting it. It's awful layman stuff, but the average fellow will know that we have got a new objective. Instead of paying for a third of the war as we go along -- instead of paying for a half of the war as we go along, some of the money that comes into the Treasury would pay for half of the war. Some of it will go back, and some of it won't.

Q Mr. President, this return of the money will be over a period of years after the war?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes, yes.

Q Mr. President, on the next page (see Page XVI, last paragraph), you say there that we can't ask Congress to impose national burdens on the lower income unless the taxes on higher and very large incomes are made fully effective. Are you referring there to tax-exempt funds?

THE PRESIDENT: That is one of the things I am referring to.

Q (interposing) Also referring to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, I didn't put it in because it's sort of an old story. I never got anything out of the Congress yet, yet I have been asking for it a long time. I still think that it isn't a good thing to have the City of Poughkeepsie, or the State of New York, or Merriweather County, issue tax-exempt bonds. The average fellow doesn't buy. It's the "savvy" fellow that knows how to go and get them. And I still think on future issues -- I have never gone so far as some other people have, asking for them -- of including new income tax rates, and interest on bonds that have already been issued.

Q You also had the 25 thousand dollar limitation in mind when you wrote that sentence?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes -- it isn't though. You're wrong. I didn't have the 25 thousand limitation -- I had the 67 thousand, 200 dollar ---

Q (interjecting) Excuse me.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- limitation in mind. (laughter)

Q If it becomes a tax limitation then, the principle is different, isn't it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute now! (laughter)

Q Mr. President, did you have that limitation in mind as to all income, rather than just wages and salaries now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it ought to go on all income. I frankly don't see, in time of war, which is a real danger to the -- to the existence of the nation, why anybody needs net in their pockets more than 25 thousand dollars a year for the balance of this war.

Q How would you apply that, sir, to Government bonds already issued?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we haven't issued any tax-exempt bonds for a long time. Government bonds that have been issued in the last -- what? -- six or seven years have not been tax-exempt.

Q The man who has a hundred thousand in taxes, he is getting local tax-exempt. How are you going to reach him?

THE PRESIDENT: You can't, without legislation. I don't think -- I don't think we can apply it to the old bonds. I have been -- I have been trying to be perfectly fair about it, applying it only to the future issues.

Oh, and then there are other things in here which we all know about, and have talked about a lot before -- depletion reserves of oil-wells, and certain -- certain taxes in Western States where you can put it on a -- on a family basis instead of an individual basis.

Q Mr. President, to go back to that pay-as-you-go thing which we discussed, is it clearly established, have you asked the Treasury to try and work out the "bugs" in that Ruml Plan, and present some program altogether on a pay-as-you-go basis?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's one of those things that's beyond my comprehension, in the first place. It's up to the experts. They have got all the experts, and two committees. And the Treasury Department and the Budget -- they are all working on it.

Q In other words, you have in mind joint returns?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Yes, ---

Q (interposing) In other words, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in certain States.

Q (continuing) --- it is more or less safe to assume that Congress will pass a Ruml Plan, whether known by that name or something else, before very much longer, isn't it? It may not be called that.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't say anything on that off the record, ---

Q (interposing) Yes, off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I mean on the record; but off the record there are -- I think there is a real desire on the part of Congress to put in some kind of pay-as-you-go provision, as long as it doesn't take too much money out of the Treasury.

Q Mr. President, the Treasury suggested the plan last year -- the Ruml Plan.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q Mr. President, is it our understanding that all of this discussion, except what you specifically said was off the record, we can attribute to you, just as if it was a normal Press Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I think so.

MR. EARLY: What?

THE PRESIDENT: You had better check up with your colleagues, and with the telephone number of the Director of the Budget.

Q Mr. President, are you calling this the "Victory Budget"?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It's just "Annual Budget."

Q Mr. President, ---

Q (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

Q (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

Q (continuing) --- on Page XVIII here, the first sentence I want to get very clear. You mean there -- you say, "The economic stabilization program, although born of war necessity, will greatly facilitate post-war reconstruction."

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q (continuing) Now do you mean to infer by that that you hope to retain present economic wartime controls after the conclusion?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. I will tell you exactly what I mean by that. If prices at the end of this war were to be as much out of line as they were in 1919, we would have a great many more troubles -- as we did in 1920 and 1921 -- than we will have at the end of this war, if we can keep prices approximately at their present levels.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President! (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Have a good time! I'm glad I don't have to write a piece on this!

Q You're lucky.

Q You're fortunate.

(the Seminar adjourned at 1.08 P.M.,

E.W.T.)

(an extra copy for Harold Smith,

Director of the Budget)

CONFIDENTIAL! To be held in STRICT CONFIDENCE and no portion, synopsis, or intimation to be published or given out until the READING of the President's Budget Message has been begun in the Senate or House of Representatives. While the Message and the Budget of the United States are dated JANUARY 6, 1943, some contingency may arise to prevent its delivery to the Houses of Congress on that date, and extreme care must therefore be exercised to avoid premature publication.

CAUTION: This Budget Message must not be confused with the President's Annual Message. A separate release is necessary.

STEPHEN EARLY,
Secretary to the President.

MESSAGE TRANSMITTING THE BUDGET FOR 1944

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1943

BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting herewith a war Budget exceeding 100 billion dollars for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1943. Last year I called the Budget an instrument for transforming a peace economy into a war economy. This Budget presents the maximum program for waging war.

We wage total war because our very existence is threatened. Without that supreme effort we cannot hope to retain the freedom and self-respect which give life its value.

Total war is grim reality. It means the dedication of our lives and resources to a single objective: Victory.

Total war in a democracy is a violent conflict in which everyone must anticipate that both lives and possessions will be assigned to their most effective use in the common effort—the effort for community survival—Nation survival.

In total war we are all soldiers, whether in uniform, overalls, or shirt sleeves.

Budgeting for Total War

WAR EXPENDITURES

The huge and expanding rate of war expenditures shows our determination to equip our fighting forces and those of our Allies with the instruments of war needed for victory. Monthly expenditures for war purposes amounted to 2 billion dollars just after Pearl Harbor; they now exceed 6 billion dollars and they will average more than 8 billion dollars a month during the fiscal year 1944. For the whole of the current fiscal year total war expenditures are now estimated at 77 billion dollars; for the next fiscal year, at 100 billion dollars. These estimates include the net outlays of Government corporations for war purposes and assume only a small rise in prices.

Victory cannot be bought with any amount of money, however large; victory is achieved by the blood of soldiers, the sweat of working men and women, and the sacrifice of all people. But a 100-billion-dollar expenditure program does reflect a national effort of gigantic magnitude. It calls for vision on the part of those in charge of war production, ingenuity of management, and the skill, devotion, and tenacity of the men on the farms and in the factories. It makes

possible the expansion of our armed forces necessary to offensive operations, the production of planes and munitions to provide unquestioned superiority, and the construction of ships which will make it possible for us to strike at the enemy wherever he may be. It reflects the determination of the civilians to "pass the ammunition." Moreover, consumers' goods and services will have to be produced in an amount adequate to maintain the health and productivity of the civilian population. And all of this will have to be done while we are withdrawing millions of men from production for service in the armed forces.

Some persons may believe that such a program is fantastic. My reply is that this program is feasible. If the Nation's manpower and resources are fully harnessed, I am confident that the objective of this program can be reached, but it requires a complete recognition of the necessities of total war by all—management, labor, farmers, consumers, and public servants—regardless of party. Production short of these military requirements would be a betrayal of our fighting men.

This Budget does not include the detailed estimates of war expenditures which would reveal information to our enemies. An additional reason for such action at this time is that rapid developments on far-flung battle fronts make it impossible to submit a detailed war Budget for a year ending 18 months hence. I shall continue, however, to report on the broad categories of war expenditures. The following table summarizes our present estimates of war expenditures from general and special accounts and by Government corporations.

Estimates of total expenditures for war, fiscal years 1943 and 1944

[Billions]

Object of expenditure	Fiscal 1943	Fiscal 1944
Munitions	$43	$66
Military and civilian pay, subsistence, and travel	15	21
Industrial construction	6	2
Other construction	8	5
Other, including agricultural lend-lease	5	6
Total	77	100

This spring I shall submit the necessary information upon which the Congress can base war appropriations for the fiscal year 1944. In the meantime there are available about 170 billion dollars of unspent war

appropriations and authorizations; about two-thirds of this amount is already obligated or committed. Further appropriations will soon be needed to permit letting of contracts with industry for the next year.

THE PROCUREMENT OF MUNITIONS

Total mobilization of all our men and women, all our equipment, and all our materials in a balanced production program will enable us to accomplish the production goals underlying this war Budget.

Manpower.—Marked progress has been made in mobilizing manpower. In spite of the increase in the armed services, industrial production rose by 46 percent, and agricultural production by 15 percent between calendar years 1940 and 1942. Industrial production has not been delayed and crops have not been lost because of lack of manpower except in a few isolated cases. More than 10 million people have been added to the employed or the armed forces since the summer of 1940, 7 million of whom were unemployed and more than 3 million of whom are additions to the Nation's labor and armed forces.

Manpower mobilization is now entering a much more difficult phase. During the calendar year 1943 approximately 6 million people will be needed above present requirements for the armed services and war production. This number can be obtained by transferring from less essential work, and by drawing into the working force people who have not recently sought employment. Vigorous action is required to mobilize and train our reserve of women and young people, to accelerate the transfer of workers to essential industries, and to reduce harmful turn-over and migration of workers in essential industries. It also requires prevention of labor hoarding and elimination of hiring restrictions based on sex, creed, or race. I reiterate my previous recommendation for a unified and adequate rehabilitation service to make available a million persons for war industry and to restore to civil employment persons who are being disabled in the armed forces.

Manpower needs of the armed forces and of war production during the calendar year 1943 can be met without impairment of essential civilian requirements. I stress the important distinction between "essential requirements" and the thousand and one things that are nonessentials or luxuries. The production of these nonessentials wastes manpower at a time when careful economy and greater effi-

ciency in the use of our manpower resources is imperative. Private thought and public discussion of this subject are very necessary.

Equipment.—Were it not for an unprecedented program of conversion and the building up of a new war industry during the past two and one-half years, we could not expect to fulfill the war-production program outlined in this Message.

Some progress, but not enough, has been made in spreading war contracts more widely among medium-sized and smaller plants. Further efforts are necessary. In certain cases, of course, saving of manpower and materials requires concentration in those plants best equipped to produce a given commodity.

Materials.—Furthermore, war production is limited by our supply of raw materials. The available materials must be transformed into the maximum of striking power. The production of less urgent or the wrong quantity of items, or poor scheduling of production in any single plant or in the munitions program as a whole, results in waste of precious materials. The Nation's war production must be so scheduled that the right items are produced in the right amounts at the right time.

War contracts.—The procurement program must achieve maximum production with minimum waste and with the speed essential in time of war. This is the controlling objective not only for the original negotiation of contracts but also for the renegotiation required by law. The law provides for the prevention or recapture of excessive profits, thus supplementing and reinforcing the objectives of the excess-profits tax. I believe that control of the costs of production is of equal importance.

The proper negotiation and renegotiation of contracts must strive to reconcile the avoidance of excessive profits with the maintenance of incentives to economical management.

FARM AND FOOD PROGRAM

Food is a primary weapon of war. An adequate food supply is, therefore, a basic aspect of a total war program. I have placed in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture full responsibility for determining and fulfilling the food requirements in this war. Our agricultural production is larger than ever in our history but the needs of our armed services and our Allies are so great that a shortage of certain foods is inevitable. The production of the less-needed commodities must be reduced, while the production of commodities for war and

essential civilian use must be increased. It is imperative also that this increased demand for food be adjusted to available supplies. There will be sufficient volume in our bill of fare but less variety. That may hurt our taste but not our health.

To facilitate this program, I am recommending appropriations for Aids to Agriculture totaling 837 million dollars for the fiscal year 1944. Among the major items included in the 837-million-dollar total are 400 million for Conservation and Use of Agricultural Land Resources; 194 million for Parity Payments on the 1942 crops; and 96 million for Exportation and Domestic Consumption of Surplus Commodities. Other large items included are 64 million dollars for payments under the Sugar Act; 38 million for the Farm Security Administration; and 31 million for reductions in interest rates on farm mortgages.

Prior to the 1943 appropriation acts, annual appropriations for parity payments were made a year in advance of actual need, and acreage allotments for the year ahead were used as a factor in determining payments on the crops of the current year. In the 1943 Budget and appropriation acts, provisions were made to insure that all factors used in determining the amount of parity payments on the crops of a given year would pertain to the program of that year. Also, to bring this item into conformity with our general budgetary practice, the annual cash appropriation for parity payments was omitted, but the Secretary was authorized to incur contractual obligations assuring the cooperating producers of cotton, corn, wheat, rice, and tobacco that such payments would be made, if and as necessary, on their 1942 crops.

The appropriation now requested, therefore, is simply the amount estimated to be necessary to compensate the producers of corn, wheat, and certain minor types of tobacco for the disparity between the market returns from the normal yield of their 1942 allotted acreage and the parity price return from that production. It is expected that no parity payments will be necessary on the 1942 crops of cotton, rice, and most types of tobacco.

Since the established national policy is to assure the cooperating producers of these basic crops parity prices on the normal yields of their allotted acreages, I am again recommending that the authority to incur contractual obligations for such payments on future crops be renewed.

On the other hand, I am recommending a reduction of 50 million dollars in the appropriation for Conservation and Use of Agricultural

Land Resources. I am also directing the Secretary of Agriculture to utilize the 400 million dollars still provided under this heading as fully and effectively as the basic law will permit to encourage greater production of the crops essential to the war effort. This fund will not be used for restriction of production except of less-needed crops. Payments will be made only to those producers who comply fully in their plantings with the stated war-production goals.

For Exportation and Domestic Consumption of Agricultural Commodities the Budget includes only the permanent annual appropriation of 30 percent of customs revenues provided by law, plus reappropriation of unobligated balances. The food-stamp plan, which is a major item of the current program, will be discontinued shortly. Although other items such as school lunch and school milk projects and the direct distribution of surplus commodities are somewhat expanded, there will be an over-all reduction of about 30 million dollars.

Provision for operations under the Farm Tenant Act and for Loans, Grants, and Rural Rehabilitation are continued on about the same level as for the current year. Small farms, like other small war plants, must be encouraged to make a maximum contribution to the war. I hope the Congress will give as much sympathetic consideration to these smaller and poorer farmers as it has given to the smaller and poorer industrial concerns.

Because no one can immediately foresee all the needs we may encounter in fulfilling our essential war requirements for agriculture, various loan and purchase operations, involving contingent liabilities which cannot be exactly predetermined, may be necessary.

CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION

In spite of a 100-billion-dollar war program, civilians can be supplied with an average of about $500 worth of goods and services during the next year. This implies an average reduction of almost 25 percent in civilian consumption below the record level of the calendar year 1941. Even then most of us will be better fed, better clothed, and better housed than other peoples in the world. Do not let us assume from that statement, however, that there is no need for great improvement in the living conditions of a large segment of our population.

It is the responsibility of the Government to plan for more production of essential civilian goods and less of nonessential goods.

Production and distribution of goods should be simplified and standardized; unnecessary costs and frills should be eliminated. Total war demands simplification of American life. By giving up what we do not need, all of us will be better able to get what we do need.

In order to distribute the scarce necessities of life equitably we are rationing some commodities. By rationing we restrict consumption, but only to assure to each civilian his share of basic commodities.

The essentials for civilian life also include a good standard of health and medical service, education, and care for children in wartime as well as in peace.

THE STABILIZATION PROGRAM

We must assure each citizen the necessities of life at prices which he can pay. Otherwise, rising prices will lift many goods beyond his reach just as surely as if those goods did not exist. By a concerted effort to stabilize prices, rents, and wages we have succeeded in keeping the rise in the cost of living within narrow bounds. We shall continue those efforts, and we shall succeed. By making effective use of all measures of control, we shall be able to stabilize prices with only a limited use of subsidies to stimulate needed production.

Some would like to see the controls relaxed for this or that special group. They forget that to relax controls for one group is an argument to relax for other groups, thereby starting the cost-of-living spiral which would undermine the war effort and cause grave postwar difficulties. Economic stabilization for all groups—not for just the other fellow—is the only policy consistent with the requirements of total war. I have read of this bloc, and that bloc, and the other bloc, which existed in past Congresses. May this new Congress confine itself to one bloc—a national bloc.

Stabilization goes beyond effective price control. Under war conditions a rise in profits, wages, and farm incomes unfortunately does not increase the supply of goods for civilians; it merely invites the bidding up of prices of scarce commodities. The stabilization of incomes and the absorption of excess purchasing power by fiscal measures are essential for the success of the stabilization program. I am confident that the Congress will implement that program by adequate legislation increasing taxation, savings, or both. Thus, we will help to "pay as we go" and make the coming peace easier for ourselves and our children.

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CIVILIAN CONTROLS IN TOTAL WAR

Total war requires nothing less than organizing all the human and material resources of the Nation. To accomplish this all-out mobilization speedily, effectively, and fairly we have had to adopt extensive controls over civilian life. We use the Selective Service System to man the armed forces. We are systematizing the movement of labor to assure needed manpower to war industries and agriculture. We regulate prices, wages, salaries, and rents; we limit consumer credit; we allocate scarce raw materials; and we ration scarce consumer goods—all to the end of providing the materials of war and distributing the sacrifices equitably.

Such regulations and restrictions have complicated our daily lives. We save rubber, metal, fats—everything. We fill out forms, carry coupons, answer questionnaires. This is all new. We have overdone it in many cases. By trial and error we are learning simpler and better methods. But remember always that reaching the objective is what counts most. There is no easy, pleasant way to restrict the living habits—the eating, clothing, heating, travel, and working habits—of 130 million people. There is no easy, pleasant way to wage total war.

About 400,000 civilian employees of the Federal Government are engaged in the task of civilian administration for total war. They direct and schedule war production; handle the procurement of food, munitions, and equipment for our armed forces and our Allies; supervise wartime transportation; administer price, wage, rent, labor, and material controls and commodity rationing; conduct economic and propaganda offensives against our enemies; and do necessary paper work for the armed forces.

Besides these Government employees, millions of men and women volunteers—who draw no pay—are carrying out tasks of war administration, many of them after long hours at their regular occupation. These patriotic citizens are serving on draft boards, on war price and ration boards, in the civilian defense organization, the war bond campaign, and many other activities. They deserve the gratitude of their countrymen.

More than 1,600,000—or approximately three-fifths—of all Federal civilian employees are engaged directly in war production. They build and load ships, make guns and shells, repair machines and equipment, build arsenals and camps, sew uniforms, operate airports and

signal systems. These are the workers in navy yards, arsenals, storage depots, military airfields, and other operating centers. It is scarcely ethical to try to make people believe that these workers are holding down armchair or unnecessary Government jobs.

This huge organization, created overnight to meet our war needs, could not be expected to function smoothly from the very start. Congressional committees and many individuals have made helpful suggestions. Criticism is welcome if it is based on truth. We will continue our efforts to make the organization more fully effective.

Compensation of Federal employees.—Last month the Congress took temporary and emergency action, which will expire April 30, 1943, relative to compensation for Federal employees. The legislation removed inequities, lengthened the workweek to conserve manpower, increased payment for longer hours, and provided bonus payments for certain employees. The pay increases should be met largely by reducing the total number of employees proportionate to the increase in the workweek.

In the present appropriation requests and expenditure estimates for the fiscal years 1943 and 1944, no allowance has been made for any cost increase resulting from the adjustment in Federal salaries.

The problems of Federal salary administration need further study in the early days of the new Congress for enactment of more permanent legislation for the duration of the war.

"NONWAR" EXPENDITURES

I am making recommendations in the usual detail for so-called "nonwar" appropriations for the fiscal year 1944. This classification includes the same items as in former years.

Actually, the "nonwar" classification now has little, if any, meaning. Most of these expenditures are related to the war effort and many are directly occasioned by it. This "nonwar" category includes, for instance, expenditures for war tax collections, for budgeting, disbursing, and auditing war expenditures, and for statistical and scientific services to war agencies. It includes also such items as the control of white pine blister rust, which I recently discussed. Expenditures for controlling this threat to our timber resources are necessary to avoid possible loss of millions of dollars in lumber from trees which require more than 50 years to reach maturity.

All counted, there are less than 850,000 civilian employees of the Federal Government, including the Postal Service, who are engaged in these so-called "nonwar" activities.

A few weeks ago I transmitted to the Congress a comprehensive report on "nonwar" expenditures during the past decade. This document demonstrated the important reductions which had been made in these expenditures, especially since the start of the defense program.

The following table summarizes reductions analyzed in the report, to which it is now possible to add revised estimates for the fiscal year 1943 and estimates for 1944 as developed in this Budget.

"Nonwar" expenditures, fiscal years 1939–44

(Excluding interest and statutory debt retirement)

[Millions]

Fiscal year	Total non-war expenditures	Reduction below 1939
1939	$6,516	
1940	6,246	$270
1941	5,298	1,218
1942	5,125	1,391
1943 (estimated)	4,582	1,934
1944 (estimated)	4,124	2,392

The table shows a reduction of 36.7 percent in "nonwar" expenditures in the next fiscal year compared with 1939. In appraising these reductions, it should be borne in mind that large items, such as veterans' pensions and social-security grants, are controlled by legal or other commitments. In fact the outstanding increase for the fiscal year 1944 is for the Veterans' Administration, for which expenditures are estimated at 879 million dollars, or 265 million dollars higher than in the current year. Most of the increase is for insurance for our fighting forces in the present war.

The most important reductions recommended for the coming year relate to work relief and general public works. Because of present high levels of employment, I am able to recommend elimination of the Work Projects Administration. This action under present conditions does not cast upon the State and local governments more than the proper burden of financing the relief of those who are unable to work. Expenditures for general public works will be greatly curtailed.

Continuing projects are directly related to war needs. Others have been discontinued as rapidly as this could be done without risking the loss of the investment already made.

I shall be glad to cooperate with the Congress in effecting further reductions in "nonwar" expenditures through the necessary revision of underlying legislation and in every other way. It should be pointed out to the Congress and to the Nation, however, that we are fast approaching the subsistence level of government—the minimum for sustaining orderly social and economic processes—and that further reductions will necessarily be of much smaller magnitude than those already achieved.

My recommendations contemplate that in the fiscal year 1944, 96 cents of every dollar expended by the Federal Government will be used to pay war costs and interest on the public debt, and only 4 cents for all the so-called "nonwar" purposes.

INTEREST

War financing has raised the requirement for interest on the public debt from 1,041 million dollars in 1940, the fiscal year before the defense program started, to an estimated 1,850 million dollars for the current year and 3,000 million dollars for the fiscal year 1944 under existing legislation.

Financing Total War

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS

Financing expenditures which will exceed 100 billion dollars is a task of tremendous magnitude. By meeting this task squarely we will contribute substantially to the war effort and clear the ground for successful reconstruction after the war. An adequate financial program is essential both for winning the war and for winning the peace.

Financing total war involves two main fiscal problems. One problem is to supply the funds currently required to pay for the war and to keep the increase in Federal debt within bounds. The second problem is caused by the disbursement of 100 billion dollars a year to contractors, war workers, farmers, soldiers, and their families, thus adding many billions to the peoples' buying power, at a time when the amount of goods to be bought is declining steadily. A large portion of this excess buying power must be recovered into the Treasury to prevent the excess from being used to bid up the price of scarce goods and thus undermine the stabilization program by breaking price ceilings, creating black markets, and increasing the cost of living.

We cannot hope to increase tax collections as fast as we step up war expenditures or to absorb by fiscal measures alone all excess purchasing power created by these expenditures. We must, therefore, provide a substantial portion of the needed funds by additional borrowing, and we must also use direct controls, such as price ceilings and rationing, for the protection of the consumer. Nevertheless, the more nearly increases in tax receipts follow increases in expenditures, the better we safeguard our financial integrity and the easier the administration of price control and rationing. All of these measures are interrelated. Each increase in taxes and each increase in savings will lessen the upward pressure on prices and reduce the amount of rationing and other direct controls we shall need.

The revenue acts of the past 3 years, particularly the Revenue Act of 1942, have contributed greatly toward meeting our fiscal needs. In the fiscal year 1944, total general and special receipts under present law are estimated at 35 billion dollars, or almost six times those of the fiscal year 1940. But the increase in expenditures has been even more rapid.

I believe that we should strive to collect not less than 16 billion dollars of additional funds by taxation, savings, or both, during the fiscal year 1944.

On the basis of present legislation, we expect to meet 34 percent of total estimated Federal expenditures by current receipts during the fiscal year 1944. If the objective proposed in this Message is adopted, we shall meet approximately 50 percent of expenditures during the fiscal year 1944.

THE NEED FOR A BALANCED AND FLEXIBLE REVENUE SYSTEM

I hope that the Congress in working out the revenue program will consider that the fiscal measures must be designed not only to provide revenue, but also to support the stabilization program as well by deterring luxury or nonessential spending. The cost of the war should be distributed in an equitable and fair manner. Furthermore, care should be taken that the fiscal measures do not impair but actually promote maximum war production. Finally, it is more important than ever before to simplify taxation both for taxpayers and for those collecting the tax, and to put our taxes as far as feasible on a pay-as-you-go basis.

I cannot ask the Congress to impose the necessarily heavy financial burdens on the lower and middle incomes unless the taxes on higher

and very large incomes are made fully effective. At a time when wages and salaries are stabilized, the receipt of very large net incomes from any source constitutes a gross inequity undermining national unity.

Fairness requires the closing of loopholes and the removal of inequities which still exist in our tax laws. I have spoken on these subjects on several previous occasions.

The Congress can do much to solve our problem of war finance and to support the stabilization program. In the past, wars have usually been paid for mainly by means of inflation, thereby shifting the greatest burden to the weakest shoulders and inviting post-war collapse. We seek to avoid both. Of necessity, the program must be harsh. We should remember, however, that it is a war for existence, and not taxation, which compels us to devote more than one-half of all our resources to war use. An effective program of war finance does not add to the total sacrifices necessitated by war, but it does assure that those sacrifices are distributed equitably and with a minimum of friction.

We should remember, furthermore, that helping to finance the war is the privilege mainly of those who still enjoy the receipt of incomes as civilians during the war. It is a modest contribution toward victory when we compare it with the contribution of those in the fighting forces.

By the end of the current fiscal year, the public debt will total 135 billion dollars. By June 30, 1944, it will be about 210 billion dollars under existing revenue legislation. Before the present debt limit of 125 billion dollars is reached, the Congress will be requested to extend that limit. To do this is sound, for such a debt can and will be repaid. The Nation is soundly solvent.

Preparing for Total Victory

Preparing for total victory includes preparing the base on which a happier world can be built. The tremendous productive capacity of our country, of all countries, has been demonstrated. Freedom from want for everybody, everywhere, is no longer a Utopian dream. It can be translated into action when the fear of aggression has been removed by victory. The soldiers of the fighting forces and the workmen engaged in military production want to be assured that they will return to a life of opportunity and security in a society of free men.

The economic stabilization program, although born of war necessity, will greatly facilitate post-war reconstruction. A determined policy of war taxation and savings will aid in making post-war problems manageable by reducing the volume of additional borrowing and supporting the stabilization program. Because of the unavoidable magnitude of interest-bearing debt, taxes probably will never revert to their pre-war level. But substantial reduction from the war level will, nevertheless, be possible and will go hand in hand with a greater human security if the underlying fiscal structure is kept sound.

I shall be happy to meet with the appropriate committees of the Congress at any and all times in regard to the methods by which they propose to attain the objectives outlined in this Message. We are at one in our desire quickly to win this war and to avoid passing on to future generations more than their just share of its sacrifices and burdens.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

JANUARY 6, 1943.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #875
Anfa Camp, Casablanca, French Morocco
(Sunday) January 24, 1943
at 12.15 P.M., G.M.T.

(this Press Conference was held jointly by the President and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain, on the lawn at the rear of the President's villa, which adjoined the Anfa Hotel, and which was part of the general term "Anfa Camp," comprising the Hotel surrounded by 15 villas, which in turn was surrounded by barbed wire and troops)

(the newspapermen -- about 50 in number -- sat cross-legged in front of the President and the Prime Minister, who were seated in chairs)

THE PRESIDENT: This meeting goes back to the successful landing operations last November, which as you all know were initiated as far back as a year ago, and put into definite shape shortly after the Prime Minister's visit to Washington in June.

After the operations of last November, it became perfectly clear, with the successes, that the time had come for another review of the situation, and a planning for the next steps, especially steps to be taken in 1943. That is why we came here, and our respective staffs came with us, to discuss the practical steps to be taken by the United Nations for prosecution of the war. We have been here about a week.

I might add, too, that we began talking about this after the first of December, and at that time we invited Mr. (Josef) Stalin to join us at a convenient meeting place. Mr. Stalin very greatly desired to come, but he was precluded from leaving Russia because he was conducting the new Russian offensive against the

Germans along the whole line. We must remember that he is Commander in Chief, and that he is responsible for the very wonderful detailed plan which has been brought to such a successful conclusion since the beginning of the offensive.

In spite of the fact that Mr. Stalin was unable to come, the results of the staff meeting have been communicated to him, so that we will continue to keep in very close touch with each other.

I think it can be said that the studies during the past week or ten days are unprecedented in history. Both the Prime Minister and I think back to the days of the first World War when conferences between the French and British and ourselves very rarely lasted more than a few hours or a couple of days. The Chiefs of Staffs have been in intimate touch; they have lived in the same hotel. Each man has become a definite personal friend of his opposite number on the other side.

Furthermore, these conferences have discussed, I think for the first time in history, the whole global picture. It isn't just one front, just one ocean, or one continent -- it is literally the whole world; and that is why the Prime Minister and I feel that the conference is unique in the fact that it has this global aspect.

The Combined Staffs, in these conferences and studies during the past week or ten days, have proceeded on the principle of pooling all of the resources of the United Nations. And I think the second point is that they have re-affirmed the determination to maintain the initiative against the Axis Powers in

every part of the world.

These plans covering the initiative and maintenance of the initiative during 1943 cover certain things, such as united operations conducted in different areas of the world. Secondly, the sending of all possible material aid to the Russian offensive, with the double object of cutting down the manpower of Germany and her satellites, and continuing the very great attrition of German munitions and materials of all kinds which are being destroyed every day in such large quantities by the Russian armies.

And, at the same time, the Staffs have agreed on giving all possible aid to the heroic struggle of China -- remembering that China is in her sixth year of the war -- with the objective, not only in China but in the whole of the Pacific area, of ending any Japanese attempt in the future to dominate the Far East.

Another point. I think we have all had it in our hearts and our heads before, but I don't think that it has ever been put down on paper by the Prime Minister and myself, and that is the determination that peace can come to the world only by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power.

Some of you Britishers know the old story -- we had a General called U. S. Grant. His name was Ulysses Simpson Grant, but in my, and the Prime Minister's, early days he was called "Unconditional Surrender" Grant. The elimination of German, Japanese and Italian war power means the unconditional surrender by Germany, Italy, and Japan. That means a reasonable assurance of future world peace. It does not mean the destruction of the population of Germany, Italy, or Japan, but it does mean the

destruction of the philosophies in those countries which are based on conquest and the subjugation of other people.

(this meeting is called the "unconditional surrender" meeting)

While we have not had a meeting of all of the United Nations, I think that there is no question -- in fact we both have great confidence that the same purposes and objectives are in the minds of all of the other United Nations -- Russia, China, and all the others.

And so the actual meeting -- the main work of the Committee -- has been ended, except for a certain amount of resultant paper work -- has come to a successful conclusion. I call it a meeting of the minds in regard to all military operations, and, thereafter, that the war is going to proceed against the Axis Powers according to schedule, with every indication that 1943 is going to be an even better year for the United Nations than 1942.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I agree with everything that the President has said, and I think it was a very happy decision to bring you gentlemen here to Casablanca to this agreeable spot, Anfa Camp, which has been the center -- the scene -- of much the most important and successful war conference which I have ever attended or witnessed. Nothing like it has occurred in my experience, which is a long while -- the continuous work, hours and hours every day from morning until often after midnight, carried on by the Staffs of both

sides, by all the principal officers of the two nations who are engaged in the direction of the war.

This work has proceeded with an intensity, and thoroughness, and comprehensiveness, the like of which I have never seen, and I firmly believe that you will find that results will come from this as this year unfolds. You will find results will come from it which will give our troops, and soldiers, and flyers the best possible chance to gather new victories from the enemy. Fortune turned a more or less somber face upon us at the close of last year, and we meet here today at this place -- we have been meeting here -- which in a way is the active center of the war direction. We wish indeed it was possible to have Premier Stalin, and the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek), and others of the United Nations here, but geography is a stubborn thing; and the difficulties and the pre-occupations of the men engaged in fighting the enemy in other countries are also very clear obstacles to their free movement, and therefore we have had to meet here together.

Well, one thing I should like to say, and that is -- I think I can say it with full confidence -- nothing that may occur in this war will ever come between me and the President. He and I are in this as friends and partners, and we work together. We know that our easy, free conversation is one of the sinews of war -- of the Allied Powers. It makes many things easy that would otherwise be difficult, and solutions can be reached when an agreement has stopped, which would otherwise be impossible, even with the utmost goodwill, of the vast war machinery which the English-speaking people are operating.

I think that the Press here have had rather a hard, provoking time, because it isn't possible to have everything organized at once when you throw yourselves on a shore. Some of our earliest and brightest hopes have not yet been fulfilled, and you gentlemen have no doubt felt baffled in the work you want to do, and therefore a trial is imposed upon you. I beg you to rise to the level of that; namely, not to allow the minor annoyances of censoring, etcetera, make you exaggerate these details. To keep your sense of proportion is a patriotic duty.

Tremendous events have happened. This enterprise which the President has organized -- and he knows I have been his active Lieutenant since the start -- has altered the whole strategic aspect of the war. It has forced the Germans to fight under the very greatest difficulties. And I think that it gives us in a very marked way the initiative. Once we have got that precious treasure into our hands, we must labor hard to keep it. Hitler said you never could tell what would happen, because he wasn't dealing with competent military experts but with military idiots and drunkards. He said he didn't know where he was, and that was a preliminary forecast of the explanation which he will no doubt offer to the Nazi Party for the complete manner in which he has been hoodwinked, fooled, and out-maneuvered by the great enterprise which was launched on these shores.

We are still in full battle, and heavy action will impend. Our forces grow. The Eighth Army has taken Tripoli, and we are following (Field Marshal Erwin) Rommel -- the fugitive of Egypt and Libya -- now wishing, no doubt, to represent himself as the

deliverer of Tunisia. The Eighth Army have followed him a long way -- 15 hundred miles -- from Alamein where I last saw them, now to Tripoli. And Rommel is still flying before them. But I can give you this assurance -- everywhere that Mary went the lamb is sure to go.

I hope you gentlemen will find this talk to be of assistance to you in your work, and will be able to build up a good and encouraging story to our people all over the world. Give them the picture of unity, thoroughness, and integrity of the political chiefs. Give them that picture, and make them feel that there is some reason behind all that is being done. Even when there is some delay there is design and purposes, and as the President has said, the unconquerable will to pursue this quality, until we have procured the unconditional surrender of the criminal forces who plunged the world into storm and ruin.

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- the Prime Minister having spoken of the Eighth Army -- that you should know that we have had a long talk with General (Harold R. L. G.) Alexander, Admiral (Sir Andrew) Cunningham, (Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur) Tedder. (Lieutenant) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower has been here, as has (Major) General (Carl) Spaatz -- (Lieutenant) General (Mark W.) Clark too. We have had a pretty good picture of the whole south shore of the Mediterranean, at first hand.

This afternoon there will be given to each of you a communique from the Prime Minister and myself, which is really the

formal document stating the history of this conference, and the names of all the people who have taken part; nothing very much in it in addition to what we have talked about as background for you all.

You will want to know about the presence of General (Henri Honore) Giraud, and General (Charles) De Gaulle. I think that all that should be said at this time is that the Prime Minister and I felt that here we were in French North Africa and it would be an opportune time for those two gentlemen to meet together -- one Frenchman with another Frenchman. They have been in conference now for a couple of days, and we have emphasized one common purpose, and that is the liberation of France. They are at work on that. They are in accord on that, and we hope very much that as a result of getting to know each other better under these modern, new conditions, we will have French armies, and French navies, and French airmen who will take part with us in the ultimate liberation of France itself.

I haven't got anything else that relates to the United Staffs conference, but -- it is purely personal -- but I might as well give it to you as background. I have had the opportunity, during these days, of visiting a very large number of American troops -- went up the line the other day and saw combat teams and the bulk of several divisions. I talked with the officers, and with the men. I lunched with them in the field, and it was a darn good lunch. We had to move the band, because it was a very windy day, from leeward to windward, so we could hear the music.

From these reviews we went over to a fort -- I don't know

whether you can use the name or not -- that is up to (Brigadier) General (Robert A.) McClure. Actually, it was at the mouth of Port Lyautey where the very heavy fighting occurred and where a large number of Americans and Frenchmen were killed. Their bodies, most of them, lie in a joint cemetery -- French and American. I placed a wreath where the American graves are, and another wreath where the French graves are.

I saw the equipment of these troops that are ready to go into action at any time; and I wish the people back home could see it, because those troops are equipped with the most modern weapons that we can turn out. They are adequately equipped in every way. And I found them not only in excellent health and high spirits, but also a very great efficiency on the part of officers and men, all the way from top to bottom. I am sure they are eager to fight again, and I think they will.

I'd like to say just a word about the bravery and the fine spirit of the French whom we fought -- many of whom were killed. They fought with very heavy losses, as you know, but the moment the peace came and fighting stopped, the French Army and Navy, and the French and Moroccan civil population have given to us Americans wholehearted assistance in carrying out the common objective that brings us to these parts -- to improve the conditions of living in these parts, which you know better than I do have been seriously hurt by the fact that during the last two years so much of the output, especially the food output of French North Africa, has been sent to the support of the German Army. That time is ended, and we are going to do all we can for the population of these parts, to

keep them going until they can bring in their own harvests during this coming summer.

Also, I had one very delightful party. I gave a dinner party for the Sultan of Morocco (Sidi Mohammed) and his son. We got on extremely well. He is greatly interested in the welfare of his people, and he and the Moroccan population are giving to us the same kind of support that the French population is.

So I just want to repeat that on this trip I saw with my own eyes the actual conditions of our men who are in this part of North Africa. I think their families back home will be glad to know that we are doing all we can, not only in full support of them, but in keeping up the splendid morale with which they are working at the present time. I want to say to their families, through you people, that I am mighty proud of them.

This is not like a Press Conference in Washington. We have 200 to 250 that crowd into one rather small room, and it is almost impossible there to meet everyone personally. You are an elite group, and because it is not too big a group, the Prime Minister and I want to meet all of you.

One thing, before we stop talking -- on the release date of this thing -- sometimes I also am under orders. I have got to let General McClure decide the release date. There are certain reasons why it can't be for a few days, but as I understand it, one of your problems is the bottle-neck at Gibraltar. I think you have enough background to write your stories and put them on the cables, and General McClure will decide what the actual release

date will be. I told him that it should be just as soon as he possibly could.

(extra copy for Prime Minister Winston Churchill, via the British Ambassador)

(extra copy for Mr. Early)

(reported by Warrant Officer Francis Terry)

(Captain Louise Anderson of the WAACs also reported this on the Stenotype)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #876
Executive Office of the President
(Tuesday) February 2, 1943 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

(the President returned from his airplane trip to Casablanca, French Morocco, on January 31. This Press Conference is being held upon his return, reversing the times for this week)

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) "Jedge," how are you?

MR. GODWIN: Pretty good, now that we have got everybody here.

THE PRESIDENT: (looking around him at the great number of people present) My Lord, what a gang!

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I thought today that the first thing I want to do before we get down to warlike things, is to thank the press and the radio of the United States for living up so very faithfully to the requests of the Offices of Censorship and Information, in regard to keeping the movements of the Commander-in-Chief and the other high-ranking officers secret. It was beautifully done, and I am very appreciative of it; and I think you all ought to know that I do appreciate how well it was covered.

Incidentally, on the whole trip -- the 22 days -- we were literally in constant touch, even when in the air, with

Washington; when I got various dispatches and things which were answered immediately, such as, for example, the -- the coal strike, which as you know took only a few hours between the time that I was told of the conditions before the reply came back from me somewhere in Africa -- the appeal to the miners to go back to work.

The conference itself, in fact the whole trip, was essentially a military conference -- military, naval, and air. And everything else had to be thought of in that particular light. In other words, it was a conference to win the war, to make plans for the winning of the war, as far as one can plan ahead, which in this particular case was the year -- calendar year 1943.

I want to emphasize what I said in the Annual Message to Congress -- just a short paragraph:

(reading): "I cannot prophesy. I cannot tell you when or where the United Nations are going to strike next in Europe. But we are going to strike -- and strike hard. I cannot tell you whether we are going to hit them in Norway, or through the Low Countries, or in France, or through Sardinia or Sicily, or through the Balkans, or through Poland -- or at several points simultaneously. But I can tell you that no matter where and when we strike by land, we and the British and the Russians will hit them from the air heavily and relentlessly. Day in and day out we shall heap tons and tons of explosives on their war factories, and utilities, and seaports."

And it was in fulfillment of that ex... -- that statement that we have worked with the other combined staffs, and have reached a unanimous agreement.

And, of course, we are in complete touch with Mr. (Josef) Stalin, and the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek). I understand, although this is -- I didn't discover it until I got back, that there were certain people that thought we could very easily have Mr. Stalin and the Generalissimo in the same -- same conference, forgetting, of course, the fact -- which most people caught on to afterwards -- that Russia is not at war with Japan, and that China, while officially at war with Germany is so located geographically that Japan -- that China can do nothing in the way of an offensive against -- against Germany. However, that is a thing that -- a little thought on the part of anybody thinking it through will obviate mistakes of -- happy thought -- perhaps in the future.

The total mileage covered was 16 thousand, 965.

And then just -- just a few -- what do you call them? -- human interest touches. I had a birthday party in a plane, 8 thousand feet above Haiti, including a cake with 6 candles around it, and one in the middle. (laughter) And a lot of very nice presents which the -- my companions had discovered in -- in Trinidad.

Now I have been trying to think up some other things that happened. When we were in Casablanca, quite a lot of people, including George (S.) Patton -- (Major) General Patton,

were very much worried over air attacks, the general theory being that we ought to move from place to place about every 48 hours. But we were so comfortable in Casablanca, the accommodations were so delightful, that we decided to risk it and stay right there. And while we were there, we only had two "yellow" alerts, which was doing pretty well. And, needless to say, there were no German planes that actually arrived.

All kinds of rumors -- Oh, Washington wasn't a patch to Casablanca, and that's saying an awful lot -- (loud laughter, and some queries of "What did he say?") ---

MR. EARLY: (to the newsmen) Patch. Patch.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- rumors that we were being -- they are having an important conference with General (Francisco) Franco of Spain. And then there was a rumor that was generally believed, that King Victor Emanuel of Italy had come over to arrange a surrender. Then there was another story that the Emperor Haile Selassie (of Ethiopia) had arrived in Casablanca to confer with us.

Then, we were very well taken care of. We had an entire regiment of infantry, with barbed wire and all the accessories that surrounded the place where we were.

The Secret Service was extremely efficient, and devised some new gadgets -- I think it's all right to say that, John? ---

CAPTAIN McCREA: (interjecting) Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- for our protection.

They felt that the Moorish population, which of course is about ninety percent of all Morocco, represented a very slim risk; but that some of the French "brethren" -- (laughter) -- might have got so excited about their own political affairs -- a little like Washington -- (more laughter) -- that they might get excited while I was traveling around by automobile to review the troops.

So I had in the jeep in front of me a couple of Secret Servicemen, and whenever they saw a European along the roadside ahead of me, just as they got to the European they both, "Oh, look! Look -- look!" -- (much laughter, as the President demonstrated the action by raising his eyes and pointing with his arm to the ceiling) -- with their hands pointing up, evidently at an airplane. Whereupon, the -- the suspects -- (more laughter) -- on the road said, "Ah! What is it?" (more laughter)

And then another stunt that they worked out in the jeep. One of them, when they came to a little group of people that they thought might be suspicious, he would pretend to fall out of the jeep, getting half-way out, and his companion would grab him and haul him back, thereby diverting attention from the next fellow in the next car. (laughter)

We went down to the -- last day -- Oh, I suppose, frankly, largely because we wanted to see it -- there wasn't any particular official reason -- we went down to Marrakech (map spelling), which is one of the most amazing cities that I have ever been in.

MR. EARLY: Spell the name, please, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What? It's spelled three different ways! (laughter) Well, it's a question as to whether there are two "R's" or one "R." It's M-A-R-R-A, or M-A-R-A. And then the last syllable you can spell four or five different ways, I think; but the accepted version is K-E-C-H, some people saying K-E-S-H, some people saying K-I-C-H. (laughter) You can spell it any way you like, and I won't complain. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: (aside) Like "generalissimo." Like "generalissimo." (the President apparently didn't hear)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We went down there because Winston Churchill had been there about -- I don't know, what? -- about ten years before, on a little pleasure trip. He said it was a most amazing place. Well, they have this old tower that was built, I think, to celebrate the capture of Spain by the Moors. Well, whatever the date is, I don't know; but it is somewhere between 1100 and 1300. Here is this city, which is in what might be called an enlarged oasis -- which, by the way, I suppose the best definition of an oasis is that it isn't dry -- (laughter) -- and you can look out and see this whole chain of the Atlas (Mountains) -- snow-covered. I think it's one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.

And the Prime Minister, he doesn't collect stamps, but he paints. And he had brought his painting tools -- I don't know what you call them -- with him. We got there around sunset, and I think he started some sketches of this wonderful scene. I left him at five o'clock the next morning. His whole outfit

was ready, and he was going to spend the day in Marrakech painting, and hop off that night for what was then, of course, undisclosed, for Cairo, and thence up to Syria for a meeting. I don't know where the meeting was actually held. I think it was just across the border, in (Adana) Turkey. He is going there to talk with President (Ismet) Inonu and his Prime Minister, in regard to a closer relationship with Turkey in the prosecution of the war. Well, you have had that story already.

Oh, Yes, I must tell you about the WAACs (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps). We found 5 WAACs -- I think the only ones in Africa. And there they were, doing the telephone work, and the stenographic work for the staff meeting. And I had them in to dine -- all five -- I had a nice little party for them. They had had a perfectly amazing experience. They had all been on the same ship in the time of the -- in December, and the ship was torpedoed. And two of them were taken off in boats. The other three couldn't get into the boats, and they were taken in tow by a British destroyer, I think. And finally all five of them were safely landed in Africa without any clothes whatsoever. (slight pause here, seemingly on purpose) They had nothing except what they had on their backs! And their -- (loud laughter) -- and their names were Louise Anderson, Ruth Briggs, Mattie Pinette -- P-I-N-E-T-T-E, Martha Rogers, and Aileen Drezmal -- D-R-E-Z-M-A-L.

We had a grand visit from the Sultan of Morocco (Sidi Mohammed), his Grand Vizier, his Chief of Protocol, and the Crown Prince. And the Sultan said -- I told him I hoped he

would come to Washington and see us all; and he said he would, he was going to try to do it just as soon as the war was over.

I don't think there is anything else that I can think of that hasn't already ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, could you tell us a little more about the Brazil phase of the trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think you all -- you all got the highlights of that.

In the first place, at -- at Casablanca, the -- as a part of the military agreements, we formally re-emphasized what we had all been talking about before, and that is we don't think there should be any kind of a negotiated armistice, for obvious reasons. There ought to be an unconditional surrender. Well, you all got that. You got the highlight of the conference, as far as -- as far as publicity went.

We got down to Brazil, and the highlight of that -- two things. The first was the very greatly increased effort of Brazil in combating the submarine danger in the South Atlantic. And the other was what had been started before, but never before formalized, and that was eliminating in the peace any future threat from the African coast against the portion of this hemisphere that lies closest to the African coast, which is a distance of only 1650 miles -- something like that -- it's awfully close.

And I think that it is just as well to have that clearly understood by people, not only in this hemisphere but also the people who have territories of various kinds on the -- on

the African coast. We don't want to have to go through this again. We want to eliminate military, naval and air threats from one hemisphere against the other hemisphere.

MR. GODWIN: With respect to that first point, the greatly increased efforts of Brazil against the submarine, is that an effort which has been made, is being made, or will be made?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you a very simple example. They are building down there quite a number of destroyers, and nearly all of their materials have to come from here. Frankly, I think the thing paid, because the President of Brazil felt that they were not getting adequate priority on the material that goes into destroyers, and we felt, perhaps, that they ought to work three shifts on them instead of two. So that's in the process of being settled.

Also, they are getting the actual use of more planes on the -- on the air patrol than they have had before. It's a thing that is building up, I thought in a satisfactory way, but as a result of the visit I think it is going to be more satisfactory.

Q. Mr. President, did you enjoy the meals that the Army served you while you were over there?

THE PRESIDENT: I ate it all! (laughter) I had a real appetite.

Q. Mr. President, could you say anything more definite about that matter on the African coast? Does that mean post-war demilitarization?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a little difficult to -- to say that it means demilitarization, because it might be accomplished in several other ways, and the method has not yet been worked out. There are all kinds of problems on that West African coast which I had never visualized before until I went there.

Well, for example, from -- from Morocco -- Straits of Gibraltar -- down to and -- and including the Dakar area, it's almost wholly Moslem, Arabic, Berber -- portion of it -- with some -- quite a number of Negroes in it. And just below Dakar you come down to a very long strip, which is almost wholly Negro. Perhaps we don't realize that European control of that area dates back to about the time of Plymouth Rock; in fact, further back than that. It began to be taken over -- completely savage country -- not savage but wild country, soon after -- Oh, what was it? -- Vasco da Gama, the early discoveries in 1500 -- Oh, further back than that -- 1400 -- pre-Columbus. And there hasn't been very much progress in all these centuries -- singularly little.

Of course, from Dakar south, past the Congo, it's about as bad a climate for the health as there is anywhere in the world. You have all heard about the Gambia mosquito. There's a tremendous lot of tropical disease all through there, and on the whole very little control exercised over it. And you will find great territories in there, where there will be a hundred white people, or educated people -- including Negroes -- to a million natives with no education whatsoever, and living just as -- just as they did a great many centuries ago, which is one of the --

one of the portions of the earth which is going to be a problem for a great many years to come. And very little has been done, on the whole.

I was very much interested in seeing the Firestone plantation. They are doing a very excellent job in getting out rubber. The manager told me that they -- I didn't know anything about rubber, more than you people do, but I know a little about it now. I saw it running out of trees -- latex. Hitherto, they had taken this strip -- diagonal strip around the tree in -- in one direction. But now -- nobody knows whether it will hurt the trees in the long run -- they not only have the diagonal strip running down in one direction, but they are also putting in a diagonal strip that runs in the other direction. (the President demonstrated this with gestures) So they expect to increase their output of rubber this year from 16 or 18 -- what? -- million pounds, to 22 or 3 million pounds from the same trees, by putting in the other diagonal cut in the tree itself.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, I believe in your communique after the (Casablanca Press) Conference you said that Prime Minister -- Premier Stalin had been informed of your decisions. Have you heard from him since?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh My, Yes.

Q. Is he in agreement with your decisions which you and the Prime Minister reached?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think we can talk about

agreement or disagreement on any -- any of those things. Of course they are highly confidential -- part of the war effort; and things are going extremely well. When I say that, please don't infer from my unwillingness to read you the telegrams between Mr. Stalin and myself -- (laughter) -- that anything is going wrong. It is going extremely well.

Q. Mr. President, do you hope to meet with Mr. Stalin at some later time?

THE PRESIDENT: Hope Springs Eternal! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, while you were away, Mr. (Cordell) Hull (Secretary of State) has been taking some hard knocks about the political situation in North Africa. Would you care to say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so, except that after all things are going along there pretty well. It's a military -- military problem there, essentially.

(picking up some papers on his desk) I don't know whether this has been printed in our papers or not. I only got it this morning, from the State Department. And it isn't -- it isn't a bad statement.

This came out -- you all know who Philip Jordan is -- (London) News Chronicle.

No -- that's the wrong one.

Manchester Guardian -- you have heard of that.

Well, wait a minute, I think I am wrong again. (laughter)

I have got it now. This is Guy Ramsey's story to the

News Chronicle. He is the North African correspondent, and he says he had an interview with (General Henri Honore) Giraud.

(reading): "In this excellent interview, Ramsey states that Giraud, quote, 'spoke with amazing frankness of many of his problems, for he believes it is essential that Britain and Washington should fully understand both what these problems are and his methods of solving them -- methods which he states may be open to criticism from people who are not so intimately acquainted with France or with French Africa, as he is.'"

And then Ramsey goes on -- I think this is -- you probably all got it in your offices anyway -- he goes on and says, for instance,

(continuing reading): "Why, half the population of Algiers still calls (General Charles) De Gaulle a traitor, because they believe his only reason for coming to Britain was to gain decorations, high rank, or money. And while it is commonly said that the two French generals are like a couple of prima donnas maneuvering for the center of the stage, General Giraud said bluntly, quote, 'The British are right to support De Gaulle. He is the only Frenchman who has spoken for two years with the voice of France. I am not only in accord with him, I am one of his greatest admirers as a soldier and for what he has done from London.'

"Here is a second example of General Giraud's grip on problems. 'Doubtless,' he said, 'it is being asked why I do not clear out every man of Vichy from my government. I will tell you why. In the first place, I need trained administrators.

There are not so many trained men in North Africa available. In the second place, not all men who have held office under Vichy are -- in the sense one uses the phrase -- men of Vichy. For instance, (Pierre) Laval is a man of Vichy, and so is (Marcel) Peyrouton. That is both -- that is, both held office under the Vichy regime. Peyrouton knows this country. He is an able man. The man he replaced was not sufficiently energetic.'"

This is Algiers.

(continuing reading): "'Do you think I would have called in a man like Laval, no matter how able? There are good, decent men who have worked for Vichy; and it is folly to call them men of Vichy merely because they have held office. Peyrouton, for example, is no man of Vichy in that sense. If he had been, I would not have sent for him. (Pierre) Boisson is another -- he is the Dakar governor. I have been down to French West Africa. It is magnificently administered. I have been down the Ivory Coast, and in all the other colonies under his jurisdiction, and all are equally well governed. And Boisson, although holding office under Vichy never allowed a Boche in Dakar. Do you think I am going to throw out men like that -- men like that -- men who are capable patriots?'

"Urging necessity of proceeding gradually, in order to avoid 'revolution' and unnecessary bloodshed, Giraud went on to say to Ramsey, 'I have the Moslem problem, and the Jewish problem, and I am dealing with both progressively. I am not going to try to solve them all by a stroke of the pen, or a stroke of the sword. I know North Africa. I have made my

career here, and I know that too swift reversals in this country mean trouble. I do not want trouble. The only trouble I want is trouble for the Boche.'

"Giraud went on to emphasize that he would use members of the Sol, or Communists or Conservatives, or anyone, under the sole criterion that they want to fight the Germans, and not engage in politics."

Which is not a bad line for any country these days. (laughter)

(continuing reading): "He made an eloquent plea for modern arms for his army as soon as possible. 'I believe I am convinced that they will come.'"

And incidentally there, I think he raised his sights, since we reached -- we agreed, General Giraud and I -- he said he had 250 thousand men, most of whom have had some military training in the past, and that he could get an army of 250 thousand men, provided he got certain weapons for them to use. And we are working very hard on that at the present time, to get modern equipment -- not our old stuff, 2, 3, 4 years old, but our latest, modern equipment that is going to our soldiers -- for his 250 thousand men.

Then he goes on.

(continuing reading): "'I am' he went on, 'as for me, I am not thinking only of North Africa. I am thinking of France herself, and I am thinking of one million, two hundred thousand Frenchmen imprisoned in Germany. I have been a prisoner, and every day those men remain prisoners, every day that France

remains enslaved and occupied, every one of those days, for me, counts double. I have seen my men fight. They are fighting now and they are fighting well. But with what? With what equipment? And especially when they see British and American equipment beside them, and know they have got to be helped in every action by British or American troops for the very reason of this equipment, what will happen to their morale if they have to wait too long?'

"'For look, I have been in France since my escape from Germany. I know that France is ready to rise and fight as we are fighting. I know my own men are highly trained enough to handle rapidly whatever modern weapons are given them. And it is right that France should fight to free herself. It is not the duty of Britain or America to free France. It is the duty of France to free herself, with British and American help. France must regain her old Frenchness, her old confidence. Then only will France really be free. Above all, it is necessary for Britain and America to understand our problems, and even my problems.'

"'For that very reason I am hoping to send to London and Washington a small commission of first-class men, who know England and the English, and know the Americans, to create real liaison. Meanwhile, if you can do anything to present the true facts, and our true colors, you will not only be the friend of France, but you will help more than a little to win the war."

Well, that was the general spirit of things, and I think that there is going to be a greater coordination and

cooperation between the two leaders and their staffs, as a result of getting them down there to Casablanca and talking things over. The old thing of sitting at the same table. And I think it's working.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, what about De Gaulle's army and his need for troops? Has he got an army?

THE PRESIDENT: He has between 15 and 20 thousand men. Those I think are -- represent the only striking force, because of its location, and that is the one in French Equatorial Africa, which is -- a large part of which has come north over the desert. Now, of course -- of course, he has certain troops in places like -- Oh -- Madagascar, and Réunion. I don't know whether he has any in New Caledonia or not. We have. But it is about 15 to 20 thousand troops.

MR. GODWIN: Would he be entitled -- did he ask for this modern equipment? And is De Gaulle's column included in this modernization of Giraud's ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, Yes. The British have been doing that. The British have been doing that.

MR. GODWIN: I didn't mean any such comparison.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. De Gaulle's troops, what he has that are available, have all been given modern equipment by the British. But you see, the point is -- the point is this, Earl. His available population ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- with which he can create an army is very, very small ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) I didn't know that.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- in French Equatorial Africa.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes, I see.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I don't know whether he can get any troops in Madagascar or not. But it's a long ways off.

MR. GODWIN: Isn't that the column that started from Lake Chad?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the one.

MR. GODWIN: It has never been spoken of as De Gaulle's.

THE PRESIDENT: It's his column. It's his column.

MR. GODWIN: All right.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. One very nice thing about it, when I was there. Here was (Brigadier General Jacques) Le Clerc's column that had come clear across the desert, and was about 200 miles south of the Mediterranean, in Tripoli. And here, at that time, on our Tunis front -- the right -- the right flank -- was a large body of General Giraud's troops.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Well, Le Clerc's troops and Giraud's troops were separated by about 300 miles. They got in touch with each other by radio. They got the location of each force, there was the possibility of air communication, and they immediately put through aircraft communications and have been in physical contact by air ever since.

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. President, was the Peyrouton appointment discussed by you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No.

Q. (continuing) --- and the Prime Minister?

THE PRESIDENT: No, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and just a little -- little piece of advice, off the record, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- perhaps you might find out what Peyrouton did to Laval when he was a member of (Admiral Jean Francois) Darlan's cabinet -- quite a while ago.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's a part of the story that I haven't -- I haven't checked very well, and I haven't seen printed over here.

Q. You said Darlan's cabinet, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) --- is that correct?

Q. He had them placed under arrest, didn't he?

THE PRESIDENT: He did.

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Check up on that. It's a story.

MISS MAY CRAIG: But Mr. President, do I understand that you approve of the Giraud position there outlined?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because it dovetails in directly

with the De Gaulle position.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, do you understand ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You can't -- you can't get a dispute out of it, May. That's the point. Now any effort to create disputes by the staff of Giraud or the staff of De Gaulle is an actual help to our enemies. They have to remember that.

Q. Mr. President, do you understand from General Giraud's statement that all Frenchmen who wish to fight the Germans have been released in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: I think practically all.

Now on these stories about the prisoners, they have all -- practically all been released, unless there's something else "agin" them. I am talking about the political prisoners that are under investigation. Some of them might have committed other crimes. You have to check on those before you open all the doors.

Q. We got reports that it is considered a crime to support De Gaulle now. Do you know whether that is correct?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. That's not true at all. That's an absolute lie.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I saw in the paper this morning that they were taking the ban off the De Gaulle paper which was put on -- I don't know, what? -- two years ago. So that's another illustration.

Q. Mr. President, is your route still a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you give us your route, or is that a secret?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. What about it, Steve?

MR. EARLY: I wouldn't think so.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: I wouldn't think so. I wouldn't think it was a secret now.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I won't give you the times:

Washington to Miami -- first day.

Miami to Trinidad -- second day.

Trinidad to Belem -- third day -- Brazil.

Brazil to Bathurst, Gambia -- fourth day.

Gambia to Casablanca -- fifth day.

Q. What was that fifth day again, Mr. President?

MR. GODWIN: Fifth.

THE PRESIDENT: Fifth day.

Q. Casablanca?

THE PRESIDENT: That includes the rail trip from here to Miami, and then at Casablanca.

I got there the afternoon of the 14th; and on the 21st did the long drive -- and the inspection trip of the American troops up there -- to Rabat, which is the capital, and Port Lyautey.

And then on the 24th to Marrakech by motor.

And on the 25th back to Bathurst, Gambia.

And on the 27th to Roberts Field, Liberia, and back the same night to Bathurst.

Q. 25th and then the 27th, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

And on the 27th -- that same night -- was the Liberia trip, and hopped off and got into the town of Natal, Brazil, next morning, and met President (Getulio) Vargas.

And left the next morning, the 29th, for Trinidad, and spent the night.

On the 30th, Trinidad to Miami.

And on the 31st, back here.

And my only complaint is that they got me up -- this flying stuff -- at an average of about half-past four or five in the morning. And I don't like it! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, what kind of aircraft did you fly in?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What kind of aircraft did you fly in?

THE PRESIDENT: When we were flying over land we used land planes, and when we were flying over the sea, we used sea-planes. (laughter)

Q. I take it they were United States built aircraft?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. I take it they were United States built aircraft?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, this question is possibly malapropos, but there were stories here by correspondents who said they thought they saw Finnish and Italian planes, in connection with your conference, which might lead to a question?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope there weren't any Finnish or Italian planes there.

Q. Mr. President, do you expect to nominate another Minister to Australia soon?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. P. BRANDT: How about the reports about Mr. (Joseph C.) Grew (former Ambassador to Japan)?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. P. BRANDT: How about the reports that Mr. Grew is going to Australia?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't made any decision yet, Pete.

Q. Mr. President, do you have any specific job in mind for (Brigadier) General (Patrick J.) Hurley here, instead of ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) We just missed each other. He was flying north from Belem the day that I was flying south to Belem, so I sent a note and asked him if he would stay over here until I got back. He is coming in today to see me.

Q. Mr. President, just a little matter of human interest. There was a good deal of interest the night of your birthday as to whether you were hearing that (radio) program that was put on for you?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wasn't.

Q. You didn't hear it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because -- what was it? -- Saturday night?

Q. That's when you were flying?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wasn't actually flying when that happened. I was on the train.

MR. EARLY: No.

THE PRESIDENT: I was 3 hours out of Miami.

MR. EARLY: No, not Saturday night, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Not the night of the birthday? Sure.

MR. EARLY: That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure, sure. I was on the train, and there was a radio set on the train, ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and the darn thing wasn't working. That's what happened. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, what did you get out of seeing those American troops there? What was your reaction to them individually? How did they look to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, they were magnificent. I don't know -- I had a sort of a feeling up there -- these two divisions and combat teams and everything -- I felt closer to having tears in my eyes than at any other time, because they were headed up for the front fairly soon, and nearly all of those troops that I reviewed had had actual combat experience in the -- in the landing back in November.

There were one or two things that -- I think you have got pictures of them -- there was this port -- Fort Mehdia -- M-E-H-D-I-A -- I think it's just at the mouth of the river, at Port Lyautey. And it was an amazing illustration of the fact that you can't win a war just with artillery. It's an old, old

Moorish fort, that is hundreds of years old. It's made of sun-baked brick -- a great tower, and very high, thick walls.

Well, this is not derogatory to the American Navy, but it's an illustration: part of the American Navy stood off-shore -- 8 or 10 thousand yards -- and hammered the living lights out of it -- firing, firing, firing. They knocked off a corner of the tower. They knocked off the top of a wall, and they dropped shells all afternoon all over this old, sun-baked brick fort.

And there were about -- as I remember it -- about 400 French troops in it, who the night before had been told -- the night of November 7th -- by their commanding officer that the Americans were about to land. And they all cheered. They were just thrilled by the fact that the United States was going to use North Africa as a striking point against the Germans.

About two hours later, the commanding officer, who had assumed that there would be no opposition to our landing, gets orders from his general -- definite orders -- that the American landing was to be opposed.

And he went out and told his men in the fort about the orders he had gotten, and he said, "We have to obey orders. We are soldiers." They immediately resisted, as soon as our boats started to land, and gave us some pretty heavy casualties in the landing.

And the next day, the Navy -- the 8th -- the Navy shelled the place very heavily, killing a large number of them. And it wasn't until, as I remember it, the third day -- am I right, John (McCrea)? -- (no oral reply) -- that the Army got

some artillery ashore and fired at this -- at this same fort at point-blank range. And it wasn't until they had made an actual -- this sounds like old-fashioned warfare of two hundred, three hundred years ago -- until our artillery had made a definite breach in the inner wall -- the land side of the wall of this fort -- that the final act took place. And part of our infantry surrounding the fort dashed in through this breach, and actually took the fort by assault.

And as I remember the figures very roughly, we lost 94 men killed, and the French, out of a garrison of 4 hundred, lost about 2 hundred.

Well, most of those -- all of our boys, and a good many of the French, are buried in two cemeteries which are side by side -- one with the French Tricolor flying over it, and the other with the Stars and Stripes flying over it.

But the interesting thing about it was that those Frenchmen who had fought with extraordinary bravery -- and that was true all over -- it was true of Casablanca, where our casualties were very heavy -- several thousand killed -- but when the order "cease fire" took place, there was a complete fraternizing of both forces. In other words, the Frenchmen had carried out their duty. They had obeyed their orders. They didn't want to fight us. From that time on the -- even the -- the families of the men that were killed came to our people and said, "Yes, I suppose it had to happen, because we had to obey orders." It was a very interesting example of the -- of the complete loyalty of the French to their own command, and an

understanding of it by their families. And today there is, on the whole, a very -- a very good feeling between the French troops and the French navy with our people.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us the present status of the man who issued those orders?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you tell us the present status of the French commander who ordered them to fire?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't know.

Q. Could it have been General (Auguste) Nogues?

MR. EARLY: (aside) That's enough.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

MR. EARLY: (aside) That's enough.

VOICES: (loudly) Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

(extra copy for Mr. Early)

(Notebook XII-PC -- page 129 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #877
Executive Office of the President
(Friday) February 5, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M.,E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Won't keep you long today.

Q. Good.

MR. GODWIN: Haven't got a very good house today.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Haven't got a big house today.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got nothing. Even Steve (Early) says I have nothing.

Q. (aside) Me either.

Q. I have got two 64-dollar questions, Steve.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) 64-dollars!

MR. EARLY: You'll get a 30-cent answer. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There isn't any news today whatsoever. I caught up with almost everything except sleep, and I am going to hibernate over the weekend, and you can put the lid on.

(pause)

Don't all ask questions at once! (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in view of the latest edict of the (War) Manpower Commission, I have been asked to ask you if you can give us any idea how you feel on the future of professional baseball? (loud laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's a good question.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that question came up in my mail yesterday, and I referred it to a committee of two -- Mac and

Steve. (laughter) And I have had no recommendation yet.

MR. EARLY: (aside) I can give you mine, sir.

MR. GODWIN: What does Mac know about baseball? That's another kind of ball (he knows about).

THE PRESIDENT: No. I will tell you what -- the question was brought up by one of the -- one of the minor league people. He said he did not see how he could keep his team going in his minor league, and very much hoped that I would confine baseball -- and recommended that it be confined to the major league. Well, I know nothing about the situation, and that is why I turned it over to these two experts. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, in view of your conference yesterday with our Minister (H. F. Arthur Schoenfeld) to Finland, can you tell us anything new about our relations with Finland?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He just reported to me, that was all --not another thing. He told me what happened up to the time he left.

Q. Mr. President, since the Casablanca conference, there have been numerous reports that a unified command for the whole North African theater -- including the army moving east and the army moving west -- had been agreed upon. Is it appropriate to ask now for comment upon that?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a brand-new one on me. You have got a unified command there, at the present time. (Lieutenant) General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower is in command ---

Q. (interjecting) Is he?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and on the Libyan army,

General (Harold R. L. G.) Alexander and (Lieutenant) General (B. L.) Montgomery are in command. Period.

Q. Is there a hyphen?

THE PRESIDENT: What? A period. Anything further is what you might call prognostication. It's a good thing to leave prognosticating on military matters out of our vocabulary for some time.

(pause)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) What about it? Thank you, Mr. ---

Q. (interposing) Do you have any further ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. (continuing) Do you have any further comment on the North African situation, in view of the report on the release of political prisoners there, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- and what you said at your last Press Conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It justifies what I said.

Q. There seems to be a rather ticklish situation which has been raised in connection with Spanish Republican prisoners, shown in this report to be over five thousand, in connection with the possibility that the Franco government may ask a voice in their -- in their treatment -- they are supposed to go to Mexico. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't know.

Q. Mr. President, have you anything on coal today?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except my coal at Myde Park is going to run out in about three weeks. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Well, I was talking about John (L.) Lewis.

Q. Mr. President, back to the Finnish situation, is it still understood that Mr. Schoenfeld will return to Helsinki?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I know. I hadn't heard anything to the contrary.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President, isn't there something on that situation on Mr. Lewis's wage demands and the effect on inflation -- on wage policies ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think in the five days (since my return) I never heard it mentioned, except what I read in the press.

Q. You are not talking about anthracite?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Talking about Mr. Lewis. I hadn't heard any official of the Government mention his name.

Q. Mr. President, under the terms of their bituminous contract, they are supposed to begin negotiations March 14, and the contract expires March 31.

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks very much for the information. I didn't know it. (laughter)

Q. Yes, sir. Would you say anything about the advisability of speeding up the negotiations?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As I say, I never heard of it, that particular phase, until you told me. I am glad to know it.

Q. Usually use several months to get anywhere on these things. It's pretty serious, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Again, thanks very much. (laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(much laughter)

(Notebook PC-XII -- page 173 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #878
Executive Office of the President
February 12, 1943 -- 10.58 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (heartily) Good morning.

MR. GODWIN: (espying a sheet of one-cent Victory stamps) What's that stamp?

THE PRESIDENT: That's the new stamp just out today. It has got the Four Freedoms on it.

MR. GODWIN: Oh, Yes? That's swell. Is that your collection sheet?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Your collection sheet, this one?

THE PRESIDENT: It's just out of the Post Office Department.

MR. GODWIN: Yes. I mean do you collect them by the sheets?

THE PRESIDENT: I do American stamps, when I can get them without too much cost. I couldn't afford a sheet of five-dollar stamps. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: It's a lot of free mail. That's a one-cent stamp?

THE PRESIDENT: It's one-cent, Yes.

Q. How much does that cost you, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: A cent apiece. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) says I have nothing. It's

better to wait until tonight, anyway, which I know will rejoice all of you so well, because you can write your stories before you come to the dinner (White House Correspondents' Association Smoker, which the President will attend).

Q. Can we, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. That's awfully good news.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) We get it afterwards. All right. How about going?

THE PRESIDENT: I really don't know another thing.

Q. Can you tell us about the stamps, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Can you tell us about the stamps?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, this is just one of the new series of three stamps that have come out -- Victory stamps. I think the others are out. This is the one-cent one, and has the Four Freedoms on it. I don't think there's much more news about it, except that, as usual, I had a little to say about the design.

Q. Mr. President, will those stamps circulate in North Africa?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, sure. You don't have to. They are there all right. They will be very shortly. You can write free mail on it, if you want -- if you want to help the Government and pay postage.

Q. Then, sir, they will circulate throughout the United Nations' world?

THE PRESIDENT: Wherever there are American troops, if

people want to buy them. They don't have to.

Q. Mr. President, you have never told us whether you are a short-snorter?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, am I a short-snorter? I should say so. And I have signed my name since I became a short-snorter more times than ever before in my life. Everybody's short-snorter bill they have brought to me for signature -- eight and ten a day. It's terrible. I quit. (laughter)

Q. Are you prepared to oblige here now, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What? I always have my bill with me. I never got caught yet. (more laughter)

MR. EARLY: That would be terrible.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, what would you say about a State like Michigan going off war-time?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know they had.

Q. Their legislature has passed such an Act.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't thought of it at all.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(much laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's all right.

(Notebook PC-XII -- page 179 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #879
Executive Office of the President
February 12, 1943 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held for the American Society of Newspaper Editors)

MR. EARLY: (to the President) Josephus Daniels is present, sir.

(the President was Under Secretary of the Navy when Mr. Daniels was Secretary of the Navy, during the first World War).

THE PRESIDENT: What? Hello, Chief, how are you? (shaking hands and laughing) Glad to see you. You embarrass me terribly! (laughter)

MR. DANIELS: I am trying to earn a living now.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter)

(a chair was provided for Mr. Daniels)

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose I will get the same signals soon, saying "All In" from the back of the room.

(pause here as the many editors continued to file in)

THE PRESIDENT: There must be a big crowd here.

(pause)

All In yet?

MR. EARLY: Donaldson will announce it when they are.

MR. DANIELS: Mr. President, you might enlist all these men, on the ground that the pen is mightier than the sword.

THE PRESIDENT: That's not a bad idea. What kind of

pen? (laughter)

(pause)

You say they are not in yet?

MR. EARLY: No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: My Golly. Better adjourn out onto the lawn.

Q. A good-sized company.

MR. DANIELS: Just about all now, I think -- the last one.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

MR. W. S. GILMORE (of the Detroit News) (President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors): Mr. President, we appreciate your willingness to receive us today. Because we know what a strain it is to impose on your time, we shall not ask you any questions, but perhaps you would tell us something about your trip to Africa.

THE PRESIDENT: I will, very gladly.

And the first thing I want to do is to -- I have already thanked my Press Conference -- but to thank all of you people for keeping something secret. I think it was a better -- better kept secret than any other one that has happened in the country for a long time. You did a grand job. Of course, you didn't all know just where I was. (laughter)

But my old Chief's wife guessed that I was in Africa. She was about the only one that did. (more laughter) The Chief said that he had always had -- Mrs. Daniels always had a sort of sixth sense on things like that. So I wrote him back to tell

Mrs. Daniels that I had always known that in the old days.

Oh, back around 1913 -- 14, we had in the Navy a very clever and brilliant Rear Admiral by the name of Bradley Fisk. Well, Bradley Fisk had no "terminal facilities," otherwise he was extremely able. (laughter)

The first thing that reminded the Chief was when we were coming back from Baltimore -- or Annapolis -- one day in the trolley car, sitting side by side. And he pointed. There up on the hill was a sign. And he said, "Read that. That's the truest -- the truest sign that has ever been put up in this country."

And the sign said, "Fisk Tires." (loud laughter)

Well, old man Fisk, about -- Oh, five or half-past, when the Secretary was thinking of going home, almost every day would bring him a long twelve or twenty-page typewritten technical article on armor, or some new form of machine gun, or something like that, which no layman could possibly understand, and tell the Secretary he had to read that because he wanted action on it in the morning.

And I knew what he did with them, but I wasn't always sure.

So he went away one day. And Bradley Fisk came around to see me, and he said, "I have got to have action on about three different documents that I left with the Secretary."

I said, "Where are they?"

"I don't know. I can't find the documents on his desk."

I picked up the telephone. I called up Mrs. Daniels, and I said they were lost, and she said, "Hmm --" -- thought a

minute -- "I think I can find them."

I think you know in those days most of the politicians wore those long, full-tailed cutaway coats.

And she said, "I am going up to his closet. I think they are in the right-hand rear tail of his spare cutaway coat." (loud laughter)

And they were. We got them back.

So she did have a sixth sense as to where people had gone, and where people kept things.

Well, on this African trip -- this is of course all off the record, as they say -- there are certain things that I suppose everybody ought to realize -- rather difficult to realize -- and that is that in a -- in a world war there are a lot of nations involved. You can't leave things to the military, otherwise nothing gets done. Now that's a dreadful thing to say, but the fact is that if you get almost all Admirals and Generals from different nations, or even one nation, talking over future plans, they spend a month or two in talking about why each plan or suggestion won't work -- get just a series of Noes.

On the other hand, if you get certain laymen to stick pins into them all the time -- prod them, if you like -- and say you have got to have an answer to this, that and the other thing within so many days, you get an answer. And that is -- that is true in this war -- partly true in the last war.

And that is why, after the November landing in North Africa, Winston Churchill and I started the military and the naval and the air to work on plans; and by about the first of January

we found that it wouldn't be until late Spring before they had plans, if they were left to themselves. It's a perfectly natural thing, they are all technicians.

So we decided that we would have them meet. I am afraid we met so that we could stick the pins in. And the result was that we gave them -- when we got there -- we gave them a week to bring -- bring out plans that were based -- based on technical things -- war operations -- during the balance of the war. And at the end of -- at the end of a week they were substantially completed; and in the next three days they were actually put down on paper and approved by everybody.

Well, of course, it also emphasized what we had come to learn last -- a year ago, when Churchill was here in January and again in June, and that is that the military or the naval can't simply say, "Now we are going to do this," press a button and have it done in a week or two weeks, or a month or two months, or three months. No human being can do that, where large operations over-seas are involved.

And I suppose it's perfectly obvious to all of us by now, that the lesson of last Fall, when everybody was yelling for a second front, has been pretty well learned. The second front had been not only planned but was in process of being organized and put through. But it took from July until November to perfect and actually put into operation the landings in North Africa. Well, of course, that is true with any large body of men, or even any large transportation problem for the Navy.

And the other thing where it also will be -- I hope

you will keep this, because it ought not to come out, for the sake of unity among our French friends -- when we got there on the 14th (of January), Mr. Churchill and I decided it would be a great chance to see if we couldn't bring (General Charles) De Gaulle and (General Henri Honoré) Giraud together.

I said, jokingly -- I said, "Now we'll call Giraud the bridegroom, and I'll -- (laughter) -- I'll produce him from Algiers next Saturday afternoon. And you get the bride -- De Gaulle -- from London, and we will get them down here, and we'll have a shot-gun wedding. (loud laughter)

Well, Saturday afternoon came, and I -- I had my man there, but Winston couldn't produce the bride. (more laughter) And it took -- Oh -- until the following Friday morning before we could get De Gaulle there.

And then came the two days of conversations between them. And Churchill and I kept discreetly out of it, except that we got every afternoon a report of no progress; except that they had said, "Après vous, Gaston" -- "Après vous, Alphonse" -- and got nowhere. (laughter)

So we got down to Sunday morning, and we were to leave -- Churchill and I -- at Noon; and after great effort I got them to sign two very simple sentences. The first was that the one great objective that they both could agree on was the liberation of France. The second was that they would continue to meet together and confer, so that they could work as closely in -- in unity as possible toward that objective.

I had an awful time, because Giraud was willing to

sign any time, but -- but our friend De Gaulle was perfectly willing to say, "Yes, yes, yes," but he wouldn't sign it. I had to pull off some little dramatics to get him to do it.

Then we went out on the lawn to get photographed. And we had the -- you have seen -- some of you may have seen the row of four chairs: Churchill, De Gaulle, and me, and Giraud. Some of you people in the East have seen -- you may have many a time -- a little photographer that used to follow me around the country in the old days -- Sammy Schulman. He is a great boy, Sammy is. And there he was in Army uniform, in front of us with his camera. And I worked it out beforehand with Sammy. After the -- the pictures of the four of us were taken, Sammy Schulman in the front row said, "Oh, Mr. President, can we have a picture of the two Generals shaking hands?" (laughter) So I translated Sammy to Giraud, and Giraud said, "Mais, oui," and gets right up and holds out his hand. It took Churchill and myself five minutes to persuade De Gaulle to get on his feet to shake hands with his own fellow Frenchman. And we got them to do it. And I think you have all got that picture. If you -- if you run into a copy of the picture, look at the expression on De Gaulle's face! (laughter) However, the main point was that we got them together.

And, of course, on that North African thing, there have been an awful lot of sincere people, I would say -- especially what we call "liberals" -- who were awfully upset by certain events in North Africa. Well, there are two things that have got to be made perfectly clear, and the first is that we have a line of communications from Casablanca -- Oh, about -- about a thousand

miles long to get to the fighting front, and about 7 hundred miles long from the landing port of Oran, and about 5 hundred miles long from Algiers. We are going through country which until you have been there -- I had no idea of it until I got there -- is a country that is so heterogeneous.

Morocco, for instance, is not a French colony. It's only in the last thirty-one years that there has been a French Protectorate over what is known officially as the -- as the Riffian Empire of Morocco, with a perfectly good Sultan who is the spiritual and the temporal leader.

The Moors represent ninety-something percent of the population. And the French rule the place with a very light hand. They are good colonizers, only they are not colonizing there. They are doing well. They are building roads for Morocco. They are improving Agriculture. They are gradually putting in education, but they so far give no vote to the Moorish population, which is over ninety percent. And they have had pretty serious laws there as late as twenty or twenty-five years ago.

Now they like the French who are there over them, because the French understand them. They have had experience, and they don't want any change. And the Sultan is an intimate friend of the French governor.

Well, it's a perfectly simple thing, this French governor -- don't come out with it -- (Auguste) Noguès -- is all for one party. He is a very definite partisan. He is for Noguès. (laughter) And what he wants is to keep his position as Governor of Morocco, in a beautiful marble palace built by Maréchal

Lyautey in the old days right near to the Sultan, in Rabat.

And I don't hesitate to say that if, in my judgment, if Hitler had gone there, Noguès would have supported him, if he could keep the marble palace. (laughter) And he has been there for seven or eight years, and he is no more pro-Hitler than I am, or pro-Laval. He is pro-Noguès -- and the palace. (more laughter)

Well, it's much better in our own -- in the rear of our armies to keep a perfectly nice, quiet position in Morocco than it is to go off chasing rainbows as to the future of France.

Well, as to the future of France, I think everybody is agreed that we must not influence by any act or deed today -- by recognizing this, that or the other individual as to what that future has got to be. It has got to be chosen by the people of France at the end of the war. And that is why you have the great efforts by De Gaulle to be recognized as what he calls -- he calls "L'esprit de France," L'âme de France" -- "The soul of France," "The spirit of France." Nobody is going to do that, because it would give an unfair advantage. Giraud wants to be recognized as the representative of France all over the world. I said, "No. That will give you an unfair advantage. Let France choose her own government. In the meanwhile, run your own little bailiwick wherever you may happen to be." Not a great many where the De Gaulle people are at the present time. Not a great many where the Giraud people are.

There has been so damn much ink that has been spilled by people in this country -- and people who talk on the Hill, and

elsewhere -- about it, and they don't know one blessed thing about it. You have to go there to understand it.

Now things are going along all right. What I want is the support of General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower. Now that is, after all, the main thing now, with the definite assurance that we are going to let France choose its own form of government at the end of the war. With the one proviso, you might say, that France -- I think no other nation should be allowed to choose a Nazi or a Fascist form of government. I think that is fairly clear.

Then the other principal thing -- except I was very much interested to see the development of different types of colonization in West Africa. It hasn't been good.

And on the way back -- with President (Getulio) Vargas -- lunched with him -- a perfectly -- you know, it's an amazing thing. On Wednesday I flew 650 miles in the morning, down to Liberia. I had the President of Liberia to lunch with me at our camp. I flew back to Gambia in the afternoon. I left. I had supper on a cruiser that was in the harbor. I got on a plane at 10.30 p.m. I got to Natal, Brazil, in the morning, and I had lunch with President Vargas that day.

It's an amazing thing: Wednesday in Liberia, Thursday in Brazil!

And I <u>don't</u> like flying! (laughter)

Not one bit. The more I do of it, the less I like it.

And of course there we did give out the statement. It has been a great menace, more than we realize in this war, the

fact that the Germans could have, if they had gone after it -- up until last November -- they had it in their power to establish -- take over Dakar and use it as a raider and submarine base. It's a direct threat against Brazil and this continent -- West Indies, and so forth.

And I think before the war -- when the war is over, we have got to take certain steps. First, to demilitarize Western Africa all the way down. And secondly, possibly to have a strong point either in Dakar or Bathurst -- one of those places -- where we will have sufficient air, and sufficient Navy, and sufficient fields -- airfields, and so forth, to prevent any aggressor nation in the future to re-establish a threat against this continent.

Well, as to details I have no idea; it isn't worth talking about. But you have an objective. When people ask the details about an objective, I say, "I am not interested," or "I am not ready to talk," or "We haven't studied the methods and the details." We can all agree on the objectives. I never worry very much if we have a six months' debate in Congress as to -- as to methods or details -- or debate in the press -- as long as we are agreed on objective.

I think that is one of the things that would help the country an awful lot if we could all bring it out. The objective is the -- is the -- the principal thing. And most of us -- ninety percent of us, I think, can agree on the objective. Make it clear that that -- the other part of it is good space-filler, -- (laughter) -- and of -- of real use, because it makes people think. All right. But no hard feelings over a difference on detail, if

we are agreed on the objective.

I don't think there is anything else that I can think of. Steve (Early), is there anything else I was going to talk about? You are going to see, what? -- General (George C.) Marshall, Admiral (Ernest) King, Donald Nelson, Paul McNutt, and Prentiss Brown.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) And others.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: And others, Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: And others. That's fine.

I am awfully glad you came this year. I understand that one or two people here -- Elmer Davis (O.W.I.), and -- it was said it wasn't an unnecessary burden on our railway transportation to have you come here. But I suggested to Elmer to bring you here to let you see people, and so forth and so on.

I thought it was a bit of a waste of time. I know of no place in the United States where you can get more misinformation than in the National Capital. (laughter) I think you realize that too.

And, of course, having seen things over there on the African -- African front, it reinforces my thought that if we would just use our own heads back home, and pay less attention to (Washington, D. C.) -- you could say all through this country -- it would be a mighty good thing -- just use our native instinct.

So I hope that you will all use your native instinct back home, more than you will rely on news out of Washington.

MR. DANIELS: Mr. President, would you mind telling

them, --- (warm applause for the President interrupting)

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) What's that?

MR. DANIELS: (continuing) --- off the record, the story you told me about the Rumanian priest?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. It's rather a nice motto, and I believe it's true.

The Orthodox Church in Rumania has a proverb, and the proverb runs something like this. Mind you, it has the blessing of the Church. It says, "It is permitted to you, my children, in time of danger to walk with the Devil until you have crossed the bridge."

(laughter, and more applause for the President)

(excerpt of the first part of this Press Conference for Josephus Daniels)

(Notebooks PC-XII, page 183, and PC-XIII, page 1 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #880
Executive Office of the President
February 16, 1943 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. How did you survive? (the dinner at The White House Correspondents' Association's Smoker, last Friday evening)

THE PRESIDENT: Fine. A very sober dinner. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Where?

Q. Disappointingly so?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, not in war-time.

Q. One person seemed to have too much.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. One person seemed to have a little too much.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Mac (M. H. McIntyre) wrote a letter today, so it will be a good thing.

Bill (Hassett), what have you got?

MR. HASSETT: I don't know a thing.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. HASSETT: I regret I haven't got a thing.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Can't you think something up?

MR. HASSETT: I would have to go and collect it pretty quick. Doesn't necessarily need to be true.

THE PRESIDENT: This fellow Hassett isn't any good. He says he can't think anything up. (laughter)

(then to Mr. Godwin): You look extremely quiet today.

(then to May Craig): What are you thinking, May? (laughter)

MISS MAY CRAIG: I couldn't tell you.

THE PRESIDENT: Starting something?

MISS MAY CRAIG: Yes.

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: (loudly, and a little unrestrained) Mr. President, we have been asking ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Now -- now -- now -- (with mock gestures of straightening out his coat) (much laughter) ---

MR. MERRIMAN SMITH: (continuing) --- we have been asking Bill Hassett for two days now about Marshal (Semyon K.) Timoshenko. Can you help us?

THE PRESIDENT: Ask Mona Lisa! (laughter)

(Mr. Hassett yesterday, in answering this same question, had said he checked with the President and got nothing but a Mona Lisa smile)

Q. Where is she? (more laughter)

Q. Is she one of the "sweet young things"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- one of the "sweet young things."

MR. GODWIN: Working for O.W.I. (Office of War Information), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: (turning to Mr. Elmer Davis, O.W.I. head) How about that, Elmer?

MR. DAVIS: We could use her. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: What did he say?

THE PRESIDENT: He says he can use her.

MR. GODWIN: All right. (continued laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you followed this controversy

of (Representative) Clare Luce's (Republican from Connecticut), on so called freedom of the air?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't got time.

Q. Plan to ration "globaloney"?

(laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you got comment on some of the controversy which has been developing over the requested resignation of Mr. (Ferdinand) Eberstadt (Vice Chairman), down at the War Production Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I read it in the paper this afternoon.

Q. Were any appeals brought to you by any of the Army and Navy ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They were not. I read that. That's -- by the way, that's -- this is off the record -- that's on the (Washington Evening) Star. Nothing was said to me at all.

Q. "They were not" is on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Mr. President, do you know whether any appeal has been made to Mr. (James F.) Byrnes (Economic Stabilization Director)?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, Moscow has just announced the official fall of Kharkov to the Russian troops. Would you care ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Grand. Grand.

Q. (continuing) About a half-hour ago.

THE PRESIDENT: That's fine. They have got two or

three strong points now that they have recaptured. And, of course, every strong point that is (recaptured), that gets out of their (the Germans) control as a strong point -- a junction point -- along that whole line, makes it more difficult for the Germans later on in the Spring to undertake any counter-offensive. So, from the point of view of the safety of the Russians against a counter-offensive, it's -- it's -- I think it has a great deal of significance. Rostov gone -- Kharkov -- and Kursk.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, if they lose the strong point on the -- on the line which they are now defending, and they retire to a line shorter than Moscow south, would it still make it more difficult for them to launch an offensive from that new line?

THE PRESIDENT: It depends a little bit. As I understand it, on the southern -- southern half of the line, these points that have fallen to the Russian armies, back of them on the west is rather flat country, where it would be difficult for the Germans to conduct an offensive ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- between -- between the present line -- the Kharkov line -- and the next line from the west.

Q. Mr. President, this plan for incentive payments for farmers is meeting pretty stiff resistance up on the Hill. I was wondering if you wanted to say anything about that, as to the desirability of that, as against the ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I can't, Jim, because I haven't had a chance to talk about the thing -- that phase of it -- with Secretary (Claude) Wickard since I have got back. And all I know is what I have read in the paper. It's an awfully -- an awfully difficult subject to talk about, unless you "bone up" on it.

Q. Mr. President, have you any thought of "boning up" with the people that Mr. Wickard fired for advocating the Parisius Plan?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I didn't know he had fired them.

Q. (Gardner) Jackson?

THE PRESIDENT: That's right. No, I don't know anything about it.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can say on prospects on the Hill that there will be some legislative limitation to prevent the 25-thousand-dollar net limit from operating?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you had better ask Mr. (Robert) Doughton (Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee). You can intimate to Mr. Doughton that you have got an idea that he got a letter from me today. Maybe he will let you see it.

Q. Today, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. IRVING.BRANT: Mr. President, have you familiarized yourself at all with Senator (Kenneth) McKellar's bill which would take 70 thousand Government employees out of Civil Service and require their confirmation by the Senate?

ReB 3-26-57

THE PRESIDENT: Only what I read in the paper. What figure was set, 48 hundred?

MR. IRVING BRANDT: No. The original bill would take out 35 thousand, but he amended it to take out 70 thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh.

Q. He dropped from 45 to 33.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: Well, I figured out that if the -- if there was debate in the Senate on one appointment out of a hundred, and they limited the debate to 5 minutes to each side, which is pretty short for the Senate, that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) You are right.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: (continuing) --- it would take -- (laughter) -- 45 minutes a day for every legislative day for an entire year to pass those one out of a hundred. (more laughter) I would like to ask whether you think the Senate in war-time could be better employed? (comtinued laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I think there's a little line in the Bible that says, "Thou hast said it." (more laughter) That's not a bad idea.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: (interposing) Well, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think -- I think that is rather ---

MR. IRVING BRANDT: (continuing) --- could I ask you another intriguing question?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I don't think there have been columns written about topics of that kind the way they have about topics affecting the Executive branch of the Government.

I think you have got a great field of action there -- (much laughter) -- especially those of you who have to write those pieces so often a week. I think there's something for you to go after. Good idea.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: Could I ask you another question, not as President but as a citizen of New York? You see, the real idea in that is that the (two) Senators from each State will pass on the appointments from those States -- the nominations -- and that is proportionate to the population. So the State of New York would get about 7 thousand nominations. And if the (two) Senators from that State took 10 minutes apiece to consider them, it would take them six hours per day, six days a week for an entire year to pass on them. (laughter) Now those are accurate figures, and I would like to ask whether, as a constituent of the two Senators from New York, you approve of that?

THE PRESIDENT: As a taxpayer, I am deeply interested. (more laughter) Got any more? This is good.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: That's enough.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, think up some more.

You know, I will tell you what it's like. We all have been working, in the last two or three years, on the same old subject of cutting down on the Non-War expenditures of the Government. Well, we are getting down now so that we are talking about 3-1/2 percent of the total expenditures of the United States. And we are going to have pages and pages of the Congressional Record that will talk about the reduction of that 3-1/2 percent to 3.4 percent -- pages and pages.

If you would just figure out -- make an estimate of how many pages, hours, and minutes are devoted to the discussion of saving one-tenth of one percent -- this is perfectly proper -- and then figure out the cost in time, salaries of Members of Congress, their clerks, their committees, and the printing of the Congressional Record, just see whether actually in saving one-tenth of one percent on the amount of Non-War expenditures, it doesn't cost more than the saving itself. That's a nice point. Check up on it.

Well, for instance, things like this: I saw the other day that they voted in committee to abolish the National Resources (Planning) Board -- they have got a perfect right to do it -- but they have been preparing, as you probably -- I don't know, most of you probably <u>don't</u> know, because there is very little publicity given those reports -- they are all public -- that are made by the National Resources Board -- all kinds of post-war planning. Any amount of planning has been done.

Among other things, they have gone into all the details of what we have talked about before as the "back-log," so that when a lot of people leave the munitions factories at the end of the war, and a lot of soldiers come home, they will have some jobs waiting to be done that are peace-time jobs.

Now I suppose most people, because they don't all think things through -- most people don't -- why should they? -- they get an idea that all Congress has to do is start making an appropriation for some public works, and that the day after the appropriation is made somebody down here will let the contract for the

particular project, and the second day they will begin to hire a lot of people to carry it out.

Well, of course, actually, when Congress makes an appropriation for a given public project, unless it has been all engineered and architected, and the specifications drawn beforehand, necessarily it's just like any -- any private individual building a building. It takes months before you can actually let the contract. And after you have let the contract to the successful bidder -- what? -- as soon as he knows he is going to do it, it may take him another month or two, or even more, before he gets his materials on the job, before he has hired his people. And there is a big lag.

Well, we found that in 1933 and 1934, when we went in for a program of public works, that it was a long time after a project was decided on by the Congress -- and it is the Congress, properly, that decides on the project -- before the dirt began to fly and people began to be employed.

And the National Resources Board over these last few years has been working on problems of that kind, getting them engineered and architected, and specifications all ready, so that if the Congress, when the time comes, decides on the project, we will save months by all this preliminary work at very low proportionate cost getting the thing started.

Well, in the same way, this Planning Board -- I know "planning" is not a popular term -- has been working on all kinds of things that can't be put through just by legislation. It will take a great deal more than legislation, such as what are we

going to do with a great many new communities that we have set up in this country? We put in factories and powder plants, and so forth and so on -- munitions plants, we might say, out on the prairies. We have taken a small village and turned it into a great industrial center, in many places. What are we going to do with it at the end of the war? Are we going to try to put something else in it? Are we going to plan what kind of thing should go in it? Or are we going to wait for a directive, after the crisis has developed?

And I am inclined to think that keeping on getting ready for the post-war period is going to save the nation, I would say, almost several billion dollars in time, in lack of employment, in the uncertainty of employees. Those are all translatable into terms of dollars, first and last.

On the other side, if we wait to do our post-war studying until after there is a post-war period, we are going to lose a great deal of money. Well, the money doesn't come out of the Government, it comes out of the pockets of the people of this country.

And I might put it this way: that in this respect I am in a role that I am not often played up in by some people. I am the great saver of money, the one watchdog on the pockets of the people of this country; and that the spendthrifts, in the last analysis, if we don't plan ahead, are going to be those people in the Legislative branch of the Government who vote to do -- to end planning.

I don't care how planning is done. They can abolish

the National Resources Board, if they set up somebody else -- some other organization to do the work. Perfectly immaterial as to who does it, as long as it gets done. And that is up to the Congress.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: Mr. President, I have done some more mental arithmetic.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Good.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: (continuing) If by several billion you meant two billion, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. IRVING BRANDT: (continuing) --- and -- and if the National Resources Board can speed that up, if it speeds it up by eight hours, it would save its entire appropriation. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) He's good.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, will you comment on the impending visit of Madame Chiang Kai-shek?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think she is coming this week.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I think she is going to hold a Press Conference for the male side, as well as the ladies.

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: Will it be a joint Conference, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: A joint Conference of yourself and ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. It will be a joint Conference with you and May. (laughter)

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: Fine.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIII - Page 11 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #881
Executive Office of the President
February 19, 1943 -- 10.45 A.M., E.W.T.

(this is the joint Press Conference of the President and Madame Chiang Kai-shek)

(three chairs were placed in front of the center window, away from the President's desk. Madame Chiang occupied the chair in the center, Mrs. Roosevelt was at her right, and the President at her left)

(as the newspaper men and women filed in quickly and silently, Mrs. Roosevelt talked with Madame Chiang, remarking that the floor should be raised up so that one could see)

Q. (aside) What's that bracelet the Madame has got on?

Q. (aside) Amber, isn't it?

Q. (aside) Amber.

Q. (aside) Is it?

Q. (aside) What's the color of Mrs. Roosevelt's dress?

Q. (aside) Pink -- or rose is good enough.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: May I take this opportunity, not to

introduce Madame Chiang to you, but introduce all of you to her.

Madame Chiang, this is nearly our one-thousandth Press Conference in ten years, and the fact that the Press and I are not only on speaking terms after all those years is perhaps a very good -- good sign. We still talk to each other. I think we rather like each other. (laughter)

You have got a very representative group here. There is no country in the world, I think, that has more newspapers on a population basis -- and magazines -- than we have. They are very live wires. But I can tell the Press something besides that, and that is that I wish that we -- the Press and myself -- knew half as much about China as Madame Chiang knows about us, as a special envoy. That is very different from most special envoys who come to this country. And her visit to us is going to be of real help in the days to come, not only because -- I suppose the people of China and the people of the United States for a very great number of years -- well over a century -- have been, in thought and in objective, closer to us Americans than almost any other peoples in the world -- the same great ideals.

China, in the last -- less than half a century -- has become one of the great democracies of the world, remembering always that their civilization is thousands of years older than ours. And that is why I feel that we in this country have a great deal more to learn about China than China has to learn about us.

Madame Chiang knows this country, and I am going to ask her, therefore, to say -- as an old friend -- just to say a few words. And afterwards -- remembering always that this (Press)

Conference is not quotable for either of us -- in other words, treat it just as if it was any regular Conference of mine -- and you will receive her, and perhaps she will be willing to answer a few questions of the "non-catch" type. (laughter)

(then to Madame Chiang) And so I present to you the American Press.

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK: (rising from her chair) Mr. President, Mrs. Roosevelt, ladies and gentlemen of the Press: I haven't made any preparations for a speech. I don't know what I am supposed to say to you today, but I confess that I have often heard that the pen is mightier than the sword, and when I saw all those pencils flashing across the pages as the President spoke, I must confess that whereas I had been to all the fronts in China, and have never felt any fear so far as Japanese swords are concerned, I do not know whether I felt fear or not when I saw all your pencils flashing across the pages. (laughter)

However, I don't think I do, because I see flashes of smiles coming from your faces, so I feel that I am amongst friends, and that I have nothing to fear from the Press, although I understand that there are such questions as "catch" questions. (laughter) I don't think you are going to put -- heckle me with them. I am sure you won't.

I want to say one thing to you, and that is that we in China have always had social democracy throughout these thousands of years, and that we are now depending on our Press, now and in the future, so that in time we shall really realize not only social democracy but political democracy as well; because, as I

said, the pen is mightier than the sword, and from what I have seen of your American Press, I am sure that our hopes of the Chinese Press will also be realized.

I am particularly referring to the President's trip to Casablanca. I am sure that all of you knew about it, and yet there was not a single word in the Press about it. And I think that shows beautiful cooperation between the Administration and the Press. And it is particularly necessary, during these war days, that there should be such cooperation. And I want to congratulate you on your tact, and on your integrity.

Thank you. (applause)

Q. (simultaneously) Could you tell us something ---

Q. (simultaneously) Madame Chiang, ---

(loud laughter)

Q. Are you here, Madame Chiang, on an official mission, or on a personal visit; and that is a friendly question?

MADAME CHIANG: This is a personal visit. It is not an official mission. I came here for my health.

Q. At the same time, you made quite an impression with your speech yesterday, which might percolate into official mentality? (laughter)

MADAME CHIANG: That is for you to judge. (more laughter)

Q. Madame Chiang, has the President asked you to remain here to act as "liaison officer" between him and Congress?

MADAME CHIANG: I don't think the President needs me, or anybody else, for that purpose. (laughter)

Q. Madame Chiang, what -- this is a big question, I know -- (more laughter) -- what is -- what is the first thing that you think we can do to help China?

MADAME CHIANG: You mean the Press, ---

Q. (interjecting) Oh, No.

MADAME CHIANG: (continuing) --- or the American people?

Q. (continuing) I mean the people of this country.

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I can answer that: with more munitions. We are all for it. That is unanimous.

MADAME CHIANG: The President is right. (laughter)

Q. Madame Chiang, I am going to ask this question, and if it is an improper one I know the President will correct me -- (laughter) -- something very funny about it, but my -- my impression is that there is more unanimity of opinion in support of the Chinese than almost any other, and the one criticism, or the one question that I have heard was that the Chinese people -- government, or whatever it is -- are not supporting their own war with manpower as well as they might. Now if that is a question that the President would like to -- me to ask, and you can discuss that -- throw a light on something ---

MADAME CHIANG: (interposing) I cannot quite understand it. That the Chinese government ---

Q. (interposing) Perhaps I can put it this way. The one -- the one tremor of criticism -- or question -- that I heard around the Capitol yesterday, after your two magnificent speeches, was that the Chinese are not utilizing their manpower to their full extent. And that question might well be publicly -- and if

you care to discuss it now, this is a good time.

MADAME CHIANG: We are using as much manpower as there are munitions to be used. We can't fight with bare hands. We have fought with no overhead protection throughout five and a half years. But we can't go there and fought (fight) with our bare hands, although we have fought with nothing but swords ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

MADAME CHIANG: (continuing) --- in hand-to-hand combat. But it is not true when it is said that China is not supporting the front with her manpower, because we are.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Madame Chiang, I have heard about as many different pronunciations of your name as there are radio announcers. Would you tell me how your name is properly pronounced? (laughter)

MADAME CHIANG: Properly pronounced? English fashion, or Chinese fashion? (more laughter)

Q. One of each, if you don't mind. Tell us.

MADAME CHIANG: American fashion, I suppose it would be "Jee-ung." (say as one syllable) When I say English, I suppose it is the same thing. But if it is Chinese, it is "Jee-ahng." The accent is different.

THE PRESIDENT: (aside) Very interesting.

Q. Say it again?

MADAME CHIANG: "Jee-ahng."

Q. Madame Chiang, would you care to speak about the American air force in China, what it means both in morale and in active support?

MADAME CHIANG: Yes. I can't pay sufficiently high tribute to the American volunteer air force -- the American Volunteer Group -- when they first came out to us.

We were being terrifically bombed in Chungking, because our Chinese air force -- we only started with a few hundred planes in the beginning of the war; and as time went on those planes dwindled. Russia at first sent us planes. Later, they themselves became hard-pressed, and less and less planes came. And as you know, planes like everything else wears out -- wear out, only they wear out quicker; and we could get no reinforcements.

Then the American Volunteer Group came, and they not only helped us materially, because they made it possible for our people to feel that America is really heart and soul with us in our common cause to fight against aggression, but the planes actually kept the enemy planes from bombing indiscriminately civilian centers -- certain civilian centers, such as Chungking. Not all China, because the air force was not large enough.

But I think the greatest help was the feeling on the part of our Chinese people that we have not fought and bled alone, and that America was helping us, and that America is really our ally.

Q. (interposing) (loudly) Madame -- excuse me.

MADAME CHIANG: (continuing) Yes.

Now the present American air force -- as the President has just said, we need munitions. We have got manpower. We have even got trained pilots, but we haven't got the planes, nor have we the gasoline. And the point is, how are we going to get them? But the President has solved so many difficult questions, he has

come through so many great crises with flying colors, that I feel that I can safely leave that answer to him. (much laughter)

Q. Madame Chiang, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Madame Chiang, you are absolutely one hundred percent right on what we want to do, and what we are trying to do; and I might even say what we are beginning to do, in addition to the present very small number of planes that are operating in China.

But I think that if you will look at the old map again -- as I have said so often -- you will realize that while we can fly planes to China, we have to fly all the other things that make planes go into China, to keep them running. It's a -- it's a problem of transportation. We can't fly there directly across the ocean. We can't fly there from Russia. And therefore we have to fly in from the Southwest. And it means that a plane going in -- a transport plane -- has to get itself in, and the gasoline to get it in, and enough gasoline to get it back again for another load, and still have something left over to leave in China to keep the fighting planes going.

I don't suppose that there is any one task that is being studied more by transportation people -- the military people -- than the problem of getting the wherewithal with the plane to go into China.

And all I can say is that we are doing the best we can, and we are definitely going to increase that aid -- I hope and I think -- reasonably fast. It is not even merely a sentimental question. It's an actual problem of winning the war. And we are

just as keen to knock out Japan as China is, and we are going to help in every way, from every possible angle and direction.

I think I said it -- suggested it the other day, that the Japanese line at the present time, all the way from Burma to the Dutch Indies, out to the Solomons and the North through the Mandated Islands, is a very long ways from Tokyo, besides being a long ways from here. And I think I suggested the other day, in what I said at the (White House Correspondents' Association) dinner, that it isn't enough just to move forward inch by inch, island by island. If we took one island, in the advance from the South, once a month -- twelve of them a year -- I figured out it would take about fifty years before we got to Japan.

And therefore, obviously, just looking at the map -- you don't have to be learned in strategy -- it's a perfectly obvious thing to a layman that the way to hit China (Japan) is to cut that line. And that is our objective, to cut the Japanese line up near the top of the line. And today that can be done, and we are going to do it more and more by using China as a base of operations; and with that, of course, if the base of operations can be established with sufficient equipment.

And it is not only cutting the line, but it means hitting Japan in the Japanese islands themselves; and that is a perfectly definite policy.

If I were a member of the Chinese government, I would say, "But when?" "How soon?" "Why not a little more?"; and I say that as a member of the American Government too. Just as fast as the Lord will let us, with the best brains that we can bring to

bear on it.

Now that, I think, is a very simple summary of what we are trying to do, without going into the details of the method and the military operations themselves. Everybody in Washington, I might say, is pledged to hurry it up and increase it, and make China a large and an important -- probably in the long run the most important base of operations against our common enemy.

Q. Mr. President, could you permit direct quotes of the phrase, "Just as soon as the Lord will let us"?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I wouldn't. A lot of people wouldn't like to have the name of the Lord taken in vain. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, that seems to indicate that the strategy and the policy will be a little more, or more aid -- Lend-Lease, or whatever it is -- to China, plus the stepped up military or naval cutting of that line? Is that correct, that the two go on at once?

THE PRESIDENT: I wouldn't say it's a change in policy. I would say a greater emphasis on trying to find out ways and means.

Q. Will it clear it up then, in the minds of people that read a great deal of argument on that sort of thing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think that's all right.

Q. Madame Chiang, how much aid has China received from Russia, which generally has to be before they were so sorely pressed? Did you receive aid from Russia in any great volume?

MADAME CHIANG: We received quite a (good) deal of aid from Russia then.

Q. Madame Chiang, might I ask if you could give us any suggestions as to how that aid might be stepped up? Do you have anything specific you might suggest to us?

MADAME CHIANG: You mean ---

Q. (interjecting) As to how our aid might be improved at present?

MADAME CHIANG: The President just said that "as soon as the Lord will let us." He didn't want that to be quoted. Well, I might say -- add on to that, "The Lord helps those who help themselves." (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Right.

Q. Madame Chiang, do you object to being quoted directly about the Lord?

MADAME CHIANG: I think I shall follow the President exactly.

Q. Do you care to extend <u>your</u> remarks, Mr. President? (laughter)

Q. (aside) Wonderful!

Q. (aside) How about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, have you got anything to ask me, because we have got to get along pretty soon.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you have noticed a growing argument between Congress and Selective Service; that is, the farmers want the boys to come home to do a little planting. The Army doesn't want it. It's coming to the point where that's going up on the Floor for a probable vote. Have you any suggestions to make about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have, but I don't know that the time is right ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- ripe for it.

You know, there has been an awful lot of discussion about the total number of men in the Army. I see pieces in the paper on how many men should we have in the Army, and so forth. Well, that was decided six months ago, and why should we talk about it any more? -- I don't know. It was decided last autumn -- definitely. Seven and a half million men in the Army on December 31, 1943. It has never been changed, that figure. It is a figure which was arrived at by the Commander-in-Chief, after hearing all sides -- the necessity of the Armed Forces. There has never been any change in it -- still 7 million, 5 hundred thousand men in the Army, December 31, 1943.

Now! I can't tell you how many men in 1944; I haven't got the faintest idea. I can look ahead to the autumn when the figures will come in again -- the figures of needs. And sometime this autumn -- as I did last autumn -- we will adopt a -- a goal for the number of men in the Army in 1944. Now what it will be, I can't even guess. Nobody can guess.

I suppose I get as much in the way of summaries of what people ask for as anybody in Washington. That is how this figure of 7 million, five was arrived at. There are a lot of people that want it 10 and 12 (million). I think somebody, I think -- somebody said 13 (million) for this year, or for the future. I can only go as far as the end of this year; and the figure is 7

million, five. Now there are all kinds of details, where the additional number above what we have now -- where it will come from; and that is being talked about. We do -- we ought to have 7 million, 5 hundred thousand, from the point of view of military necessity.

And also, we have to remember that people of your age and mine, Earl, are too old to go out and fight. For an Army, in the fighting end of things, we have to have people who are reasonably young. And that is a matter I have no objection to their talking about and making all kinds of suggestions. But the fact remains that from the military point of view: 7 million, 5 hundred thousand men in the Army at the end of this year!

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, would you care to comment on the criticism of that policy, which has been voiced in Congress; namely, that by building up such a large Army here, in view of transportation difficulties of the men, and the large amounts of equipment needed to train men, that we are thereby depriving China and Russia -- who are ready to fight -- of the munitions with which they could fight, if they ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Absolutely nothing in it at all. Munitions will supply everything that we can get to Russia and China.

Q. Does that figure of 7 million, 5 hundred thousand, Mr. President, include officers also?

THE PRESIDENT: I think not, but you had better check. I think not.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, do you want to comment

on the House Military Affairs' action on the Kilday bill? (Representative Paul J. Kilday, Democrat, of Texas)

THE PRESIDENT: On what?

MR. P. BRANDT: The Kilday bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Pete, I don't know anything about it. What is it?

MR. P. BRANDT: Sets up categories of dependents, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- single men to be taken first, then finally those with -- fathers will be taken last?

THE PRESIDENT: As long as they give me physically fit men.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Well, you know, that means when you come down to it, it comes pretty close to putting people -- on the average there are some fit men who are over 35 years old, but most men over 35 are not sufficiently good for combat service. They can't walk 30 miles a day for 3 days running.

Q. Mr. President, when you say seven and a half (million) in the Army, how many does that mean? Total armed forces?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you that. The Navy is working along to -- up to about a million now, and by the end of this year -- you had better check these figures -- the total of them is between two million, or two and a half million.

Q. (interposing) Well, the argument ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The same with the Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, WAACs, and so forth and so on ---

Q. (interposing) Doesn't that bring you to between ten and eleven (million)?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- between two million and a half.

Q. Doesn't that bring you to between ten and eleven?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Doesn't that bring you to between ten and eleven?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, seven and a half and two and a half are what? -- 10. (laughter)

Q. About 8 hundred thousand officers.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, at the time you first announced this seven and a half million Army substantially, I believe you added the other categories up, and I think that the total figure was 10 million, 8 hundred thousand. Is there any change in that?

THE PRESIDENT: Did that include officers?

Q. Yes, sir -- 750 thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely right.

Q. Well, sir, the "farm bloc" -- if you recognize that term -- seems to think that you can't have that Army and do the Spring planting -- can't have that Army and food this year. I think that is probably a correct statement of their case. Is that worrying you at all?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, of course.

Let me tell you a nice story, and as an illustration. I was talking to one of the newspapermen in North Africa who had come back from Russia -- and I can merely tell you, I -- I didn't

check on it or anything like that, but he is a perfectly reputable newspaperman, and I suppose that it's a perfectly legitimate story -- in the spring of 1942, after they had withstood the Russians (Germans) all through the winter of 1941 and 1942, the Russian line having been pushed back from 20 miles of the city to nearly a hundred miles from the city. Nevertheless, Moscow was in real danger, even in the spring of 1942; and they had gone through a very tough winter. They didn't have enough fuel, and they didn't have enough food -- they hadn't laid in enough food.

So the Russian authorities took -- I think it was 300 thousand school-children -- Oh, between the ages of -- what? -- 12 to 18; and they took them out to a radius of perhaps a hundred miles from the city, all the way out. And they planted every acre of fields as soon as the ice was out of the soil. And as soon as they had done that, they put them into the woods -- the forests. And they took pretty good care of these children -- it was war -- of course, not as well as they had taken care of them in time of peace. And they cut wood until harvest-time came, and then they put them back in the fields to harvest all the food that they possibly could. Then they put them back in the woods again.

And in that way Moscow was supplied, by autumn, with enough wood to keep people warm. I mean reasonably warm -- not the way we heat our homes. And they had enough food to live on -- men, women and children -- in this great city with millions of people in it.

They didn't have enough manpower there to put grown-up people, either men or women, into this work. The men were

fighting, or running the transportation -- or the women were running the transportation, and fighting, and all the utilities, and they were in the munitions factories which still remained in Moscow.

And the result, this fellow said to me in Casablanca -- the winter of 1942 -- and 1943, this winter -- has been -- there has been relatively less suffering, and fewer problems of food and heat than the previous winter. I use that as a little illustration.

And I thought I was a little previous about six months ago! I said once that I thought that the younger people in the villages and towns of this country could help the farmers of this country very, very materially. We have -- we have sporadic examples, like the case of the town -- I don't know where it was -- California, I think -- where they had a prune crop -- I don't know whether it was prunes, but something like that -- all ripening inside of one week.

And they couldn't get labor.

And the whole town turned out -- the drug-store fellow, the soda-water fellow, the doctor, the lawyer, the newspapers -- the linotype man and the editor -- and the women of the town. Not a large number -- I don't know, what? -- I think twelve hundred people in the town. But they all turned out and helped pick the prunes. And the result was that at the end of the week the prune crop was in.

Now we haven't done nearly enough of that. That doesn't mean that that is the solution of it, but at least it will help

in the problem of getting in the harvest for our needs, and the needs of our Allies -- stuff that we ship abroad.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.

Q. (aside) Let's go, boys.

Q. Thank you, Madame Chiang.

(extra copy for Madame Chiang Kai-shek)

(Notebook PC-XIII - Page 28 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #882
Executive Office of the President
February 23, 1943 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. How are you, Mr. President?

Q. How are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Good "morning."

(then picking up two clippings) Did you see that? (holding one up) By Ernest Lindley -- The Battle Of Washington.

Q. Who?

THE PRESIDENT: (holding up the other clipping) By Walter Lippmann -- The Battle Of Washington. (laughter)

Q. Collaboration.

THE PRESIDENT: Who wrote it? Same thing -- same story. I think it's Lippmann's, but it may have been Lindley's.

Q. Lippmann.

Q. It's Lippmann's.

THE PRESIDENT: The (Washington) Post said it was Lindley's.

Q. The Post made the error.

MR. GODWIN: Wrong story.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Wrong byline. Maybe that's a "rubber stamp" paper.

THE PRESIDENT: Can't tell. May be. (laughter) Anyway, it's an exceedingly good article, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) -- whoever wrote it.

MR. GODWIN: I read it under -- under the other. I thought it was pretty good.

THE PRESIDENT: Good -- very good.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have been trying to dig up something, and the only thing I have got, at last, is the Executive Order that has been proposed to carry out the recommendations of the Bellamy committee -- the committee on occupational deferment of Federal employees -- very good report. I am very grateful to the gentlemen who did it. And the Executive Order has just come in. I haven't signed it yet -- I will very soon -- putting it into effect. I think that's the story that came out on Sunday morning, didn't it? I think so.

MR. GODWIN: A story came out.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, did you -- did you read Mr. (Josef) Stalin's speech, or Order, to the Red Army on the -- on its 25th anniversary?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't.

MR. GODWIN: Do you -- may I ask you a further question about it? He made certain statements in there to his Army which would indicate that after he had pushed the enemy out of the Russian territory, he was through.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. He didn't say that.

MR. GODWIN: That is, the way he -- he put it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) He did not. He did not.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) He was talking about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Stick to the language. Don't try interpretations.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Well, sir, without ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I haven't read it, so I don't know what it was. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: That's -- that's a -- I didn't try to put it into his mouth, but I thought that is what he meant. I think a great many people ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You see what I mean, Earl?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, it may be a wrong interpretation.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether it is or not, because I haven't read it.

Q. Mr. President, I got the impression that there wouldn't be any Germans left by that time. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: So, you see?

MR. GODWIN: Well, at any rate, you are not saying anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Honestly, I haven't read the thing.

Q. Mr. President, he also said that Russia was bearing the whole weight of the war, because there wasn't any second front. Would you care to say anything about that point?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing, because I did read that in the headline, but I haven't read the article; and you know what headlines do to articles. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, the leading article in the Saturday Evening Post this week says that you and Mr. Churchill promised

Stalin to open a second front in Russia -- in Europe in 1942. Do you have any comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I wonder where the Saturday Evening Post got that story from?

MR. GODWIN: Did you read it?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Did you read it?

Q. (interjecting) Good deal of detail. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am just asking, where did they get a story like that from?

MR. GODWIN: That's what we would like to know.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: That's what we would like to know.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think that they have been reading any secret files of the Casablanca Conference, or that they decoded any messages between London, Moscow or Washington.

Q. Mr. President, their reference is not to Casablanca. It's to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh.

Q. (continuing) --- the January conference of one year ago ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Oh.

Q. (continuing) --- at the White House, between yourself and Mr. Churchill, right after Christmas in 19 -- whenever the trip was.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. It was New Year's Day, 1942.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, after all, you are going into a perfectly futile argument. We did agree to start a second front of sorts, and when it came down to the point, it seemed best to start it at a place called Algiers, and Casablanca, it being the more -- most feasible of any point. That was done. Now, as I say, you can write pages and pages on what you mean by a second front. Well, no people -- two people in this room will agree. So there you are. At least, action was taken. If the Saturday Evening Post is talking about a year ago last January, I don't know.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, did you talk to Representative (Ed V.) Izac (of California) about conditions in cities where there are naval ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Conditions in where?

MISS MAY CRAIG: (continuing) --- cities where there are naval complements?

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Cities.

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MISS MAY CRAIG: He is chairman of the sub-committee ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, we did not. We talked about the meat situation in California, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Meat.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- May.

MR. GODWIN: Would you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. GODWIN: Can you tell us something about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I am trying to find out.

MR. GODWIN: They have been carrying on quite a crusade.

Q. Mr. President, the Army today announced that it ordered some troops to pick cotton in Arizona, and some of the farm Senators say that the furloughing of troops for harvesting won't solve the agricultural labor shortage at all. They still want deferments of their workers. Would you comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think there are too many opinions, and too much comment already. I would say that when there are special cases -- the Arizona case is a very special case -- we would have a few furlough jobs to draw on. It's a crop that has to be got in for military reasons, if nothing else -- you can't eat it -- but you can use it for military -- great military needs. And there were some troops -- some colored and some white -- and I think for four or five days those troops are the kind of troops that can be used for that kind of an operation.

You know, a lot of people don't think things through. Suppose, as I said to -- well, never mind what it is -- a great many don't. But probably in the Legislative branch -- the other day -- suppose you have a division that has had 38 weeks of training, and they need four more weeks before they are ready to go. If you start to take ten more or twenty more out of each company and put them back on the farm, you will be slowing up the readiness of that division to go into the fighting front. On the other hand, there are -- there are other troops which are not exactly in that character, they may be Services of Supply troops back home, or engineer troops, like some of thse in Arizona.

If you take them out for four or five days, it is going to slow things up. It all depends on the individual case -- the locality and the troops available. That is just a little sidelight.

We helped -- when was it? -- last autumn, in getting in the sugar beets in Montana. We happened to have available, very nearby, some troops that could go in and help on that, and they undoubtedly will have to do it again, in a great many special instances.

Q. Troops were used in Montana, you said?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. You had better check up. It is my impression they were.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any report on Congressional reactions to your letter about the McKellar bill?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Apparently the Judiciary Committee is going ahead and report out the bill that has been ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am told it has been improved.

Q. Could you improve that bill?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you improve that bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Could what?

Q. Could you improve a bill of that sort?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think so. I think they were working, when I last heard, to put it under the limit of -- Oh, what was it? -- 35 to 43 (hundred dollars) ---

Q. (interposing) The original bill was 45 (hundred

dollars).

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Going to reduce it.

THE PRESIDENT: It was put back to that. As I saw in the paper, they were putting in something to protect the Civil Service. I don't know -- I don't know what has been done.

Q. Mr. President, you would have to amend the original Civil Service Act in order to protect it, as it provides that anybody subject to confirmation shall not be under the Classified Civil Service.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. I would call that one of the -- I won't say "molehills." It is a "molehill" in relation to the war.

Q. It's a "mountain" in relation to the Civil Service.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. But, after all, this is war. I hope that a great many things which are done in the war may be revised or repealed when we get back to those things I mentioned last night -- normalcies.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what Madame Chiang Kai-shek is doing today?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea.

Q. Mr. President, did you see Archbishop (Francis J.) Spellman before he took his recent trip?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. There has been a great deal of speculation about this trip of his. Is he carrying any message from you, or performing any mission for you whatever?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, I couldn't comment on a thing like that, obviously. He is going over, however, principally in his capacity as the Chaplain -- Chaplain Bishop of the Catholic Church to -----. Then he is going to visit quite a number of our military and naval units. I think I could say that that was the primary objective of the trip.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, I read an editorial yesterday, saying that -- saying that you seem to be crossing a bridge in the company of a "devil" named "domestic appeasement," and it expressed apprehension lest you fall off. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't got time to go into the -- what they call "nuances" -- look up the word -- (laughter) -- I have forgotten the ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, could you say what you expect to see repealed at the peace conference?

THE PRESIDENT: It has nothing to do with the "price of eggs." Let's win the war, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that's the point.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us anything about that conference you had yesterday with Mr. (Cordell) Hull and Dr. (Isaiah) Bowman, and others?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anything more than what has been said. We are doing it carefully, taking up this, that

and the other subject. I think -- I think that you can -- it will have to be pretty general and pretty vague -- I think you could write a piece to the general effect that we are considering some kind of -- and you will have to say "some kind" -- now don't speculate on what that means -- it means some kind of a meeting of representatives of the United Nations to take up a subject.

And the subject is the subject of post-war food. If you in the same sentence say "not relief," I think you will see the point. At the end of the war there will be -- there will be certain relief problems. A rather definite line is being drawn between those problems -- keeping people from starving, getting in food where it is most needed, sending in seed, sending in -- in some cases -- agricultural implements to make food crops, with the hope that all over the world we can save lives and improve malnutrition just as fast as we can. That, of course, is an emergency thing which comes as a result of many years of warfare. And the relief organizations are working on that at the present time. The State Department and Governor Lehman are talking with other nations in regard to a conference on relief.

But what I am talking about is something entirely different, and that is a -- a United Nations conference on the more permanent food supply of the world; and nothing more detailed than that has been decided on. When I say that, I talked about -- (I am) talking about world crops.

Well, just for example, we had in 19 -- what was it? -- around '34, a world wheat conference, the -- with the general idea that the surplus of wheat in the world determines the price

of wheat, and unless there is some agreement between the wheat-producing nations, the unfortunate farmer is subject to a series of fluctuations, so that he never knows what he is going to get for his wheat. And that first conference -- knowing no more about the details than I do -- got along pretty well. And it nearly went through -- I have forgotten -- it doesn't make any difference -- except some of the wheat-producing nations -- not many of them -- would not go along.

And then there was another one that was in process of being held, I think in 19 -- the spring of '39, before this war broke out; and they had about got to an agreement when the war broke out.

Well, I just use that as one of the subjects that a general food conference would take up, with the idea of preventing famines or surpluses by general agreement of the wheat-producing countries, at the same time giving the wheat producers a reasonable assurance of a decent crop.

Q. Mr. President, would you expect to include in such a conference countries like Argentina, which are pretty big producers, among the United Nations?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. That's a detail. That's another detail that hasn't been taken up.

Q. Mr. President, would that call for a continuing organization?

THE PRESIDENT: May I put it this way: that this would be an exploratory conference, with, I think, a complete understanding on the part of every member of it that it would be

exploratory. That is why I can't talk about "happy thoughts." It is exploratory. That is your first step. Now what comes next depends upon what they recommend after exploring the subject.

Q. Has it been decided where it would be held, Mr. President, that conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No. But I will give you a tip on that: I am very much against conferences in any large city -- anywhere. The most effective -- from the point of view of things done quickly and effectively -- was at Casablanca. It was not known generally that we were there. Everybody got to know everybody else extremely well, which is always a good thing; and the smaller the place, and the fewer the interruptions, the greater the success.

Q. Has the approximate date been set? Has it definitely been decided to hold the exploratory conference?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q. How soon do you hope to hold it, Mr. President? Approximately ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That I don't know.

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I would put it -- what? -- this spring.

Q. Yes.

Q. Well, Mr. President, I find more interest in the Capital now, in the food supply. Now -- during the war. Would you talk about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so. Why should I? Any of you people starving? (laughter)

Q. Not this week, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Anybody here starving? (more laughter) I don't think anybody in this country appreciates what so many other countries are going through. How would you like to have brussels sprouts twice a day, every day in the week throughout the year? Well, there are only 45 million British and Scotch and Welsh who are doing that at the present time.

Q. Mr. President, you -- your using the general term "this spring" would indicate that it would deal with problems during the war as well as post-war?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. This is post-war, mind you. I would call it: post-war exploratory.

Q. But the conference will be held while the war is going on?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. Now you are getting me to commit myself on when the war ends. (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I had to be a little cagey, didn't I? (laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #883
Executive Office of the President
March 12, 1943 -- 11.00 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning -- good morning.

Q. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: How is everything?

MR. GODWIN: Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Godwin) Is that your Draft card?

MR. GODWIN: I have got it. Want to see it?

Q. (aside) 4-F.

THE PRESIDENT: You haven't got your short-snorter card, have you?

MR. GODWIN: What?

THE PRESIDENT: Got your short-snorter card with you?

MR. GODWIN: I am not a short-snorter. Have you got one of those Draft cards?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I carry my short-snorter around with me, but I don't carry my Draft card.

MR. GODWIN: I would like to join that.

THE PRESIDENT: But if you don't carry that short-snorter card around with you it costs you money.

Q. Draft card might cost you a little "time."

THE PRESIDENT: Might too. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to give you -- give you something here that I think will be of great value, if it -- if there could be some kind of a story about it. And I suppose it relates to a statement made by the Generalissimo (Chiang Kai-shek) way back in -- on the 26th of February, but I suppose that communications out of China are a bit difficult, and I don't believe we have heard about it over here. I haven't seen anything printed about it. It might have been.

In regard to Thailand, which we used to call Siam, the Generalissimo sent this message to the people of Thailand. It is fairly long, and I don't believe you will want -- no particular reason why you shouldn't have the whole thing -- it's two pages, single-spaced; and I think it would be a good thing.

It's -- in a way it does relate to -- Oh, what? -- the general point of view of the United Nations in regard to territory grabbing.

It's addressed to the soldiers and citizens of Thailand, and if you will let me, I think I can summarize it for you: expressing his understanding of the difficult situation that Thailand found itself in when Japanese aggression invaded them, but today the situation has become a world-wide struggle, and that China's feelings toward Thailand have continued on a basis of peace for more than one thousand years. There are 3 million Chinese living within the borders of Thailand, and that China has always considered Thailand a sister country, and wants to do everything after the war that they can to restore the prosperity and the independence of Thailand. And it speaks of the United

Nations' conference declaration on the first of January, 1942, dedicating the United Nations to the liberation of all the nations in captivity under Japan and Germany and other Axis countries, in order that they might have political independence restored to them.

And I think this probably is your lead: I can, however, give my solemn word -- you can quote this, if you want to -- I can, therefore, give my solemn word that China as well as her Allies have no territorial ambitions in Thailand, and have no intentions of undermining her sovereignty and independence. The Thais, however, should recognize the fact that the territory and freedom of Thailand can only be restored to her through the victory of China and her Allies.

Maybe that has been printed, but I think it is worth -- worth doing, because it is a pretty simple, straight declaration of not only the policy of China but of the United Nations, in regard -- in regard to Thailand. It will be a useful thing to do.

Q. Mr. President, does that also include Korea?

THE PRESIDENT: I have read through just this. Don't bring up any other ---

Q. (interposing) I thought it was in that statement.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Korea is not in it?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. It's an address to the soldiers and citizens of Thailand.

Q. Mr. President, have you had any word as to the reaction in Thailand to that statement?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't. We have -- we have practically no information that is coming out of Thailand at all.

I think that's all I have got for the minute.

Q. Mr. President, yesterday two members of the National Resources Planning Board (Charles E. Merriam and George F. Yantis) had a conference with you, and upon leaving they said that there had been some discussion with you on methods of continuing post-war planning, whether or not Congress approved the appropriations for the Board. Could you tell us what ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't -- I don't -- I guess you must have misunderstood them, because what I am sure they intended to say, which was all we -- the only thing relating to that subject we talked about was the necessity of continuing planning, the burden thereof resting solely on the Congress. In other words, the methods to be used -- in other words, the -- the responsibility for continued planning rests entirely in Congress -- nowhere else, you see.

And I -- I will just give you an example. They have listed for submission to Congress -- any time that Congress wants -- a list of about 7 billion dollars' worth of public works to take up the unemployment caused by demobilization and by closing down war plants at the end of the war -- it will be a very great many people.

Now on those 7 billion dollars' worth of projects, it's all very well for the Congress to pass legislation, but you don't start human beings to work on a project by legislation, as we all know, you have to have your engineering and your -- especially

the specifications for the job, all completed beforehand. Now, out of the 7 billion dollars of various projects -- of course, Congress is to determine them -- which ones -- only about one billion of them, so far, have been engineered and have had specifications written for them. Well, of course, one billion dollars' worth of work doesn't employ very many people.

MR. GODWIN: This one billion is out of the seven billion?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Now, we would be ready to go ahead with one billion out of the seven, because it's ready practically to let the contracts or to start the work. If it is done by contract, the contractor knows just what he has to do and can bring in his figures within ten days, and start -- start the dirt flying within the -- within another two or three weeks. On the other hand, if it hasn't been engineered and specifications written, it may take six months or a year before you can get it done.

So the problem is rather squarely up to the Congress, as to whether we are going to have a great hiatus without any jobs that can be given -- except on paper -- at the end of the war, or whether we will have jobs that are ready to start. That's the simplest way of putting it.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, would you care to make any comment on the element of frankness in the character of our admirals?

THE PRESIDENT: The what? (laughter)

Q. On the element of frankness in the character of our admirals?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't get it. (more laughter)

Q. Well, ---

Q. (interposing) Russia, sir.

Q. Would you care to comment on the Standley affair? (Admiral William H. Standley, our Ambassador to Russia, who told a Press Conference in Moscow that Russia was not telling its people about American Lend-Lease aid)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh! Oh! I was thinking of another admiral. (more laughter)

Q. Is there more than one?

THE PRESIDENT: I know a number of admirals and generals that your -- your hypothetical question might apply to. It's all right. I don't think I want to comment on that.

Q. How about the other instance of frankness?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How about the other instance of frankness?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sometimes they are too frank, just like all of us in this room. Sometimes they are not frank enough. Sometimes, again, like all of us, we talk too much; other times we talk too little.

Q. (interposing) Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) All of which says nothing. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, we seem to have a

new military hero in the Southwest Pacific in (Lieutenant) General (George C.) Kenney. Could you tell us anything about his trip?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't -- I expect to see him in the next two or three days. He is just back here on consultations.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) All you can say is that he did a grand job down there.

Q. (continuing) It has been a long time since we talked to you. In that period you saw Representative (Adolf) Sabath, and a group from the Democratic National Committee. I wonder if you could tell us your reactions on those conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there is any news on that. Let's get ahead with the war.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, just to help get ahead with the war, is there any advice or comment that you could make regarding the Russian situation that might be helpful in keeping the thing out of speculation?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no; except I wouldn't do too much speculating. You know what happened to the country in 1929 as a result of speculation. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Some other kind of speculation.

Q. Anything you could tell us on Manpower, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No, nothing. No news on that now.

Q. Mr. President, do you have a report from Leo

Crowley on the F.D.I.C.'s operations? (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have had -- I have had it for about a week. I have got it here on my desk. (picking it up)

Q. Mr. President, may I ask another question?

THE PRESIDENT: It's an analysis -- now, wait a minute until I answer the first question. (laughter)

Q. I beg your pardon.

THE PRESIDENT: This is an analysis of the banking developments in the past ten years. I will just give you one or two high points, and Steve (Early) can give you the -- give you the report. He has it out there.

MR. EARLY: It also includes the letter, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: And the letter, afterwards.

It says, from the serious asset impairment that the banks suffered in 1933, they have now recovered to the strongest asset position of record, which I think is worth playing up, because as you all know the more confidence we can establish on the part of people in the banking system of this country in time of war, as well as in time of peace, the better it is. The banking system is so constituted because of these assets that it seems ready to meet any war demands that may be made.

As a part of this, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has saved from loss more than one and a quarter million depositors, that is to say 98.8 percent (99.8%) of the depositors in 390 insured banks that remained closed at the time of the closing of the banks.

Notwithstanding the loss -- the assumption by the Corporation of 50 million dollars of losses that would otherwise have fallen on the depositors in these 390 banks, the Corporation itself has accumulated a surplus of 325 million dollars. The Corporation could be liquidated today, and could repay all of the insurance assessments paid by the banks, and the entire contribution of the Government, together with a dividend on the contribution of the Government, of seven percent.

Well, that's not a suggestion that we should liquidate the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, but it just shows that if we would liquidate it we would come out in very, very nice shape. The -- this insurance of deposits today is providing full protection for more than -- this is an amazing -- perfectly amazing figure -- more than 65 million accounts in the banks in this country. That is a very amazing thing. The bank loans during -- in the prosecution of the war to agriculture and industry are very definitely promoting production of food and essential civilian and war goods. It's rather an interesting report. It's worth a story on.

MR. GODWIN: Are we going to get that?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Steve has got that out there.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, everybody is thinking about income taxes now. Did you ever ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I am, too. (laughter)

MISS MAY CRAIG: (continuing) I thought so. Did you ever express yourself, or will you, on -- I don't like to say the "Ruml Plan," but any plan for getting on a current payment ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, I don't think so, May. It is -- after all it's rather squarely a Congressional function. I know ---

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interjecting) Talk about it in principle.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- after all -- after all, we talked about it in theory -- I don't know when it was -- a couple of months ago. And the fact, of course, still remains: the individual does, especially in the higher brackets, save a great deal of money in taxes to the Government through the Ruml Plan. In other words, the richer individual taxpayer will pay less money to the Government, under the Ruml Plan -- actual -- actual drawing of checks out of his bank payable to the Collector of Internal Revenue. Now that -- that seems to be pretty well established. Instead of which, of course, in other countries -- England, for instance, where the war is going on -- the more people had the more they contributed to the government. Period.

And I don't think I need say anything else, except to bring out that simple fact, that in most of the cases the richer the person, the greater the income of the person, the more saving they make out of actual tax payments to the Government in the year 1943.

Q. Mr. President, could you illustrate how that works?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) I don't understand it.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it does. It does. I have got the Treasury figures to prove it.

Q. Mr. President, is that true if you incorporate the Carlson proposal, proposed by Representative (Frank) Carlson (Democrat of Kansas) ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) I don't know.

Q. (continuing) --- which would ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Now you are getting over my head.

Q. (continuing) --- which would take the larger or higher of the two years? Doesn't that take care ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I couldn't tell you, because I don't know.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you have no objection to the pay-as-you-go plan, have you? It's the -- isn't it the forgiveness matter that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, now you are getting into awfully deep water, because when you talk about the forgiveness thing, you can divide the room up and talk two sides. One side will say it's forgiveness, and the other side will say the Government will get just as much money.

Q. Well, that's about what you said when you discussed it before.

THE PRESIDENT: Before. But the fact does remain that the Government, from the -- from the richer taxpayers of this country gets less money under the Ruml Plan than they get under the existing plan.

MR. GODWIN: You mean "Ruml" as the Ruml Plan? There are some other plans ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, I am talking about the Ruml Plan.

Q. Isn't that due to reductions in income in 1943?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Isn't that due to reductions in income in 1943?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Oh, No. Due to the Ruml Plan.

Q. I don't see where -- how the Ruml Plan would have any effect. (much laughter)

Q. Well, Mr. President, Mr. Ruml's testimony denied that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. Mr. Ruml's testimony took the opposite view from yours. He felt ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) But it isn't a question -- it isn't a question of "view," it's a question of taking the figures on somebody's existing return. I mean to say, it's all mathematically -- there is only one answer: mathematical. It can't be a question of opinion.

Q. Mr. President, where can we find those figures? I think that is what we are trying to get at. I think all of us would like to get the answer to this question.

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose the Treasury -- I don't know why the Treasury shouldn't give them out.

Q. The Treasury has given me figures, but I have never seen any that the receipts of 1943 ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They sent -- they sent

me a memorandum giving those figures for -- Oh -- all the different brackets of people; and -- well, starting with -- what? -- the 10-thousand-dollar brackets, and then working on up until you finally got to the brackets that contained the ten richest men in the United States -- suppose you call it bracket "A". And there are the figures which I suppose are mathematically correct. I think they are, because it's a question of taking out a piece of paper and figuring with a pencil.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) On -- of course, we can't give the names of any of these people, obviously.

Q. Could you give us those figures?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you give out those figures?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no objections to the Treasury giving them out.

Q. Mr. President, do those figures show that the actual collections by the Treasury would be less this year under the Ruml Plan, or do they show that from rich people and other people less money would be collected if you collected one year's tax, than if you collected two years' taxes in one? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Now wait a minute. You are going over the heads of all of us. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) He's a Wall Street guy.

MISS MAY CRAIG: Mr. President, do you think it would matter if you get less from ten men, if we get more from a lot of other people?

THE PRESIDENT: Do you get more from all the other people?

MISS MAY CRAIG: The general opinion is that you would, by collecting from current income, get more over-all.

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know about either, May. My impression was the other way.

Q. Your impression was that the net take of the Government would be lower under the Ruml Plan this year than it was last year?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, when I talked to the Treasury people about it, they said the loss would be in the case of executives who were ready to retire this year. They named about four of them. So far as I could see, it would have no effect elsewhere.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) A lot of argument, but no news.

Q. I would like to ask you if you have any comment to make on this other query from my office the other night, saying that Erika Mann, the daughter of the German novelist (Thomas Mann), was making a lecture tour in which she was saying that Premier (Josef) Stalin was present at Casablanca, and that the Press was -- was going to be awfully sore about it when they found out.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) He must have been under the table. (loud laughter) We didn't see him. Pretty clever stunt if he was. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, when you came back from Casablanca you were asked whether you planned to see Premier Stalin, and

you said that "Hope Springs Eternal."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Is there any more definite news on that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not yet. (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: That's all right.

(Notebook PC-XIII - Page 70 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #884
Executive Office of the President
March 16, 1943 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a special story for you girls today.

Q. Providing one?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Providing one?

THE PRESIDENT: Dandy.

MR. GODWIN: Cooking? Is it cooking?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Cooking?

Q. Cooking?

MR. GODWIN: Cooking? You know, the Japs say ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Coffee! I am just trying to justify what I said (about it).

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got a story for you housewives -- male and female. You know, sometime ago the Mayor of New York (Fiorello LaGuardia) said something about how to make coffee, and in general we were in agreement -- my recipe was a little bit different from his, but the same idea. And he came in today, and he said, "We are justified. We are proved right. We have found up there an old copy of Epicurus -- (holding up high an old book) -- translated from the Greek in 1656, which is good authority on account of its age." And in the back of the book is written in longhand -- (showing them the writing) -- the following -- which

I had translated, and Steve (Early) can give it to you afterwards, but it's a funny old translation.

(reading): "How To Use Copha." (spelling): C-O-P-H-A. And of course, you see, at that time in Europe it was one of the new things.

Q. (aside) How do you spell that?

Q. (aside) C-O-P-H-A.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing reading): "Take a pint & 4 spoonfulls of water & sett itt bye the fier -- F-I-E-R -- & boyle itt a little -- B-O-Y-L-E -- then take itt fro the fier & putt in halfe an ounce of Copha, then sett itt to the fier & keepe itt boyling now a quarter of an hower, sometymes stirring itt to prevent burning, when itt is setled Drink itt hott. The next day ---"

Now here is the crux of it -- (laughter) ---

"--- The next day the same quantetie of water putt to the same Copha that was left the day before -- (more laughter) -- and next boyle itt, then add to that a quarter of an ounce of fresh Copha & order itt as the first. This due for 4 dayes -- (more laughter) -- & the 5th day beginn anew." (more laughter)

(this was written on the back page of a translation of Epicurus's Morals, printed in London in 1656)

So there we have the most ancient authority on how to prepare coffee in all the world.

Q. Do you think that was coffee, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Do you think that was coffee?

THE PRESIDENT: Do I what?

Q. Do you think that was coffee?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure it was coffee. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: That's better than any I get.

Q. Is that what the Mayor came in to see you about? (loud laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) It was! He came all the way from New York to talk to me about that!

Q. How do you get the half-ounce?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. What is a half-ounce of coffee -- a teaspoon?

Q. (interjecting) A teaspoon.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You girls ought to know, ---

Q. (interjecting) A teaspoon.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- something like that.

Q. Mr. President, after about five days wouldn't you have an unusually large amount of grounds in the pot?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it would be very good to keep the original ounce with the half-ounce each day.

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Coffee ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Help win the war.

MISS MAY CRAIG: I would rather not win it at that rate. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: O, May, that is so typical of so many of you -- (laughing) -- including the men.

I don't think I have anything besides that.

Q. Mr. President, there has been some comment in the papers, editorial and otherwise, regarding plans which have been put forth to deal with post-war problems; and the criticism has been directed toward the fact that we should attempt to win the war first. Have you any comment to make on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think that's worth comment. It's a glittering generalization. What do they mean by it? I don't know.

Q. Well, Mr. President, can you comment generally on the proposal for the formation of a United Nations' Council now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there's any news on that. We are trying, of course, as everybody knows, to increase conversations, in order to arrive at better understanding through knowledge of each other on all the post-war problems.

Q. Mr. President, do you see any problem in the fact that our -- that the other members of the United Nations are unable to determine what American policy is?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they have done it pretty well, haven't they, for a number of years?

Q. They seem to have some uncertainty about it.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. What you want to do is to write some kind of a constitution for this, and a constitution for that, and dot the "T's" and cross the "I's", and the world situation -- we are trying, first of all, to win the war, and secondly to work toward certain objectives. That is as far as we can go at the present time.

Q. What I was thinking of was the "T" in the word

"Senate."

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Crossing the "T" in the word "Senate."

(the President made no oral reply)

Q. Mr. President, there have been some recent attempts, or rather resistance to the "Little Steel Formula," the most recent one being the coal miners' Union saying that they are going to get a two-dollar-a-day increase or not go to work on April first, if their contract isn't in force. Can you discuss that for us?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think you want to pre-judge a case.

Q. Mr. President, are you going on the air in the next week or so?

THE PRESIDENT: Not that I know of.

Q. Mr. President, can anything be said about Mr. Eden's visit so far? (Sir Anthony Eden, Foreign Minister of Great Britain)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. It's what I -- the word I used just now, the word "understanding" -- better understanding throughout the world -- talk over problems and thoughts that various people have.

Q. Would you care to say anything about the visit of the (National) Grange members yesterday? (Albert S. Goss; H. E. Babcock; and Ezra Benson)

THE PRESIDENT: That's the same sort of idea, only that's a domestic one. We are working on that whole problem.

It's a very difficult problem -- awfully difficult.

Q. (aside) Let's go?

MR. GODWIN: (aside) What?

MR. D. CORNELL: Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: I didn't ask anything! (laughter) May I see the title page of that (Epicurus book)?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: May I see the title page of that?

THE PRESIDENT: It's rather nice.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #885
Executive Office of the President
March 19, 1943 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. (espying a box of candy called Chi-Mar-Tan on the President's desk, which they had to read upside down) Looks like a box of Chinese candy.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Looks like a box of Chinese candy.

THE PRESIDENT: It's Chinese candy, made out of Sesame nuts -- smallest nut in the world. I only know it in the cross-word puzzles as the word "til." I don't know whether we grow them in this country or not. Does anybody know? Do we grow Sesame nuts?

Q. It's grown in Central America.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it?

Q. Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it really? It's a Chinese thing originally?

Q. Yes.

MR. DONALDSON: (interposing) All in.

Q. (continuing) Imported from China. It's pressed for the oil.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything except this -- just background stuff for you.

I think you want to be very careful in talking about the food meeting of the United Nations that I hope we will hold within the next two months. Make it perfectly clear that this is not

the immediate post-war relief -- entirely different subject -- this is the long-range subject of nutrition of the -- well, of the populations of the world, and a -- a better production of food, and a better distribution of food. The relief subject is coming along very well, and there will probably be a meeting on post-war relief sometime this spring also.

Q. United Nations meeting?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. But don't confuse the two subjects.

Q. Mr. President, that meeting yesterday with Isaiah Bowman, and Secretary (Cordell) Hull, and so forth, is that on -- on one of these ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, everything.

Q. On everything?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. It was general post-war relief?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. And both -- both these things were mentioned, with a lot of other things too.

Q. Lot of others.

Q. Mr. President, at the last (Press) Conference, there was a generalized question asked you about your attitude toward post-war planning, and you made a generalized answer, I think; and out of that grew the impression that you were cool toward the Senate Resolution by Senator (Joseph H.) Ball and three other Senators (Hatch, Hill and Burton). Nobody ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- asked you specifically what you thought about the Ball Resolution. Would you care to comment

on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, perhaps the only thing I could do would be to talk for a minute on what might be called background on it.

I wasn't cool toward the Resolution at all. It was a Senate Resolution, purely a Senate Resolution, and purely within the rights of the Senate to express their opinion. I told them that I couldn't discuss the language of it -- that is purely a Senate matter -- but on certain general objectives, looking toward a more secure peace for the world, that I -- I believed that it would help some time -- I wasn't putting any time on it, either -- help in the general picture of having the world know that the United States is, as a whole, ready and willing to help in maintaining future peace.

Well, I thought it would help for the rest of the world to know that, as time goes on. In other words, I didn't discuss language; that is purely within the rights of the Senate. And I didn't discuss the various clauses, because that again is purely within the rights of the Senate. But, certainly, I wasn't cool.

Q. Would it be correct to say, then, that you endorse the broad principle?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes.

Q. Mr. President, back to the conference on food, we were told the other day that a tentative date had been set for ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. A tentative date had been set?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have asked for a certain --

certain date, but we haven't had the answers yet.

Q. Can you tell what nations are included in that?

THE PRESIDENT: All the United Nations.

Q. None outside?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. P. BRANDT: Would the conference be held here ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

MR. P. BRANDT: (continuing) --- in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope not, Pete. I think it would be dreadful to subject them to Washington. (laughter)

Q. (interjecting) Canal Zone?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You know, it's an interesting thing -- this also, we might almost say, is off the record -- very close to it -- I had one or two very good examples. On a conference with a lot of people, one of the first objectives is to get them together, so that they know each other, so that they can talk to each other frankly. If it is held in Washington, they can't get to know each other in the same way, because almost every one of you has got a -- a "pet" in the crowd, and they all know that. And almost every one in the crowd has got a "pet" in the newspaper profession. So they are terribly careful what they say to each other. They are -- they are circumscribed. They are limited. They are not frank. They can't get to know each other.

Well, we have had a couple of staff conferences here, one in -- what was it? -- December and January -- early January, '42, and another one in July. My Lord! We didn't get nearly as good or as quick results as when we met in Newfoundland in

August, 1941, or in Casablanca a month ago. That was grand. But a big city conference is -- is almost automatically -- I don't think there's anybody to blame -- I am not putting any blame on anybody -- it's just one of those -- one of those human things. It doesn't succeed nearly as well as if you put them off in a quiet place. So maybe I am looking for a quiet place.

Q. Do you have one?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. I have four or five in mind.

Q. In this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, in this country. (laughter)

Q. How about Monticello?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. How about Monticello?

THE PRESIDENT: Not big enough. It would be very nice to have it there -- rather nice idea.

Q. Are "pets" excluded from the Canal Zone?

(more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us some of the general conclusions which are in that Manpower Report, which the committee of Justice (James F.) Byrnes, Judge (Samuel) Rosenman ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) There aren't any.

Q. Can you tell us something about the findings of fact?

THE PRESIDENT: There aren't any. (laughter)

Q. (interposing) What <u>is</u> in the report, sir? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Bill (Lawrence), I am

sorry -- I am sorry, but there have been -- there have been various memoranda about various things, and not only from that group that we are talking about but quite a lot of other people too.

Q. Is there something in the works, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is there something in the works?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh my, Yes. Always. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you foresee the probability of any other conferences on matters that you might have been talking about yesterday with the State Department people and Dr. Bowman ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) They are developing.

Q. (continuing) --- besides on food and relief?

THE PRESIDENT: We haven't got any plan in regard to date, or even plans on the definite subject, but we are talking over -- what? -- two or three, or four other conferences.

Q. Mr. President, when you speak of the -- of the United Nations in the food conference, you mean just the "Big Four" (United States, Britain, Russia and China), or a whole bunch ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, no. All the United Nations.

Q. When you speak of these other conferences, do you mean mainly economic subjects?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. At this time, economic and financial. And of course, the economic ones slide over, like this food conference. It's a question of -- for instance, nutrition. Well, nutrition is part economic and part that horrid word that we don't use any more -- "social." (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, will newspapermen be permitted to cover the food conference when it occurs?

THE PRESIDENT: I hope not. (laughter)

Q. May I ask, sir, if that was one of the reasons why you are moving it away from Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, I explained all that. (more laughter)

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, can you explain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, I am looking for -- this is a new word -- efficiency.

Q. And the newspapermen, sir, are they efficient?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (meaning the President was not implying that newsmen were inefficient) But they sometimes slow down efficiency on the part of others. They are very efficient themselves. That's the trouble, they are too efficient.

Q. Mr. President, has any decision been reached on the National Service bill that Secretary (of War) Stimson wrote about?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q. I mean, there is still a division within the Government ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) It isn't a division. What will I say? -- what will I say? -- it's more a question of <u>when</u>. I want to avoid National Service just as long as I possibly can. It may not be necessary to have it. On the other hand, it may be necessary to have it.

Q. Can you say why you want to avoid it as long as you can, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think -- I think it creates a lot more machinery, of necessity -- it makes things in many ways more complimented -- (I mean) complicated; and some people will say regimentation. Well, of course it is. You can't win a war without regimentation. What I am trying to do, honestly, is to keep it off as long as I can. Maybe we can, all the way through. Maybe we will have to come to it.

Q. Do you see anything in the -- in the Kilgore-Pepper bill as a possible substitute for this?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know it. I think I have seen a copy, but I am not familiar enough with it.

Q. (aside) That's all?

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #886
Executive Office of the President
March 23, 1943 -- 3.40 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing I could -- Steve (Early) could dig up was a letter -- formal letter of resignation from (Brigadier General) Pat Hurley as Minister to New Zealand, and my acceptance of it, which he has all typewritten for you, and you can get outside afterwards. And that's the only news I have got.

Q. Have you anything else in mind for him, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. Oh, Yes. That is all arranged. He is leaving to -- mission to the Middle East -- Near East -- as my Personal Representative of the President, to report on various things.

Q. Is he also on active duty with the Army, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. I think he draws only one salary.

Q. Will he go to Russia, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: If necessary -- no plans for it -- general utility man.

Q. Major (John) Henry with him, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Major Henry is with him. I don't know. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: That's not a military secret.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, are you going to make the Manpower Report public?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. The Manpower Report, made to you by ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What Manpower Report?

Q. The committee with Mr. (James F.) Byrnes, (Harry) Hopkins, (Bernard) Baruch ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, that <u>alleged</u> Manpower Report. (laughter) I think I have covered that the last time I was here.

Q. Is it an alleged report?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, ---

Q. (interposing) Would you care to say anything about it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- isn't that right, Bill (Lawrence)? I covered it the last time.

Q. Do you care to discuss it? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can't catch me that way. I am too old a hand.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any comment on (Prime Minister Winston) Churchill's speech?

THE PRESIDENT: On who?

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Churchill.

Q. Churchill's Sunday speech?

THE PRESIDENT: I was very keen about it -- listened to it.

Q. Mr. President, last summer the Government warned

Japan against using poison gas against the Japanese -- against the Chinese, after having received some -- what was described as authentic reports that that had taken place. Similar reports came out of Chungking yesterday. The Chinese high command issued a formal communique on the renewed use of gas on their troops by the Japanese.

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard about it. I will check up on it.

Q. Can you tell us how the Eden conversations are getting along?

THE PRESIDENT: Who?

Q. (Sir) Anthony Eden's?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. I saw him -- what was it? -- yesterday, before he left. He is going away, and will be back -- soon.

MR. GODWIN: Have you, sir, heard anything from the mine operators or the mine workers?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not a thing. Has anything happened today?

MR. GODWIN: Something has happened. They seem to be getting along. I wondered if you had anything ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Not a thing.

MR. GODWIN: They agreed -- apparently agreed to go along.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think anything has come in. I would have had it in my mail.

Q. Mr. President, about a month ago John G. Winant

(our Ambassador to Great Britain) said he was going back to London in about two weeks, and he seems still to be here. Is he going back?

THE PRESIDENT: He is. I asked him definitely to stay here until Mr. Eden had come and his visit was concluded here. He is going to go back very shortly, I suppose.

Q. Mr. President, do you feel any concern about the inflation bills in Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: They haven't got quite as far as this end of the Avenue yet, so I will have to withhold comment.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Not very good!

MR. GODWIN: Not very good.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #887
Executive Office of the President
March 26, 1943 -- 11.05 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: A lovely day. (perfect Spring weather outside)

Q. A good day to be out on the back lawn.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. A good day to be out on the back lawn.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. We ought to be out there. I think it's a good idea. I think we have had one or two conferences out there, haven't we?

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got only two things here. One is the -- a Proclamation, on setting apart May first as Child Health Day; and the other -- Steve (Early) has a copy -- and the other is that I have signed the Food Administrator (Executive) Order, and Steve will have that for you when you go out.

I don't think there's anything else.

Q. Does that food Order, Mr. President, does that provide that Chester (C.) Davis will have any subordination to the Secretary of Agriculture (Claude Wickard), or will he report directly to you?

THE PRESIDENT: He is in the Department of Agriculture. He reports -- he talks -- he is in constant touch with the Secretary, and final decision, of course, comes to me -- will be to me, obviously, because this is based on experience. And it's a full-time job for anybody, as I think you can well imagine.

The Secretary of Agriculture still has everything that he had before the -- before the last Order, and merely transfers production and distribution to Mr. Davis.

And, of course, Mr. Davis is not only in touch with the Department of Agriculture, but he is in touch with quite a number of very important Departments, such as -- well, the War Department, the (War) Manpower Commission, the O.P.A. (Office of Price Administration), and the W.P.B. (War Production Board). And this puts the whole -- whole subject of increasing production and distribution into his hands.

Q. Will he have anything to do with farm prices?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. He has farm prices too. But, of course, primarily with the objective of retail prices for what you and I pay for food.

Q. Will that part of it be channeled through the Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. I say, will that part dealing with prices be channeled through the Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. That would be -- he would report to me on that, because of these other Departments; that is, O.P.A., and Senator (James F.) Byrnes (Economic Stabilization Director), Manpower, and so forth and so on.

Q. Mr. President, you say farm prices. Does that mean food prices all the way through?

THE PRESIDENT: Of course with the cooperation of O.P.A.

Q. Mr. President, in other words, Davis will have a

sort of an autonomous agency within the Department of Agriculture?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. (interposing) He can act ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) A very large part of his work, of course, will be with the Department of Agriculture.

Q. He can act without the approval of the Secretary?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Can he act without his approval?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think the issue will arise.

Q. Mr. President, you said that Mr. Wickard would have what he had before you signed your last Order. He had a good deal of production ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes, but in the peace-time sense. It's a very different thing these days.

Q. For example, I was thinking of the Triple A, the Soil Conservation Service, and ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That -- I have got a list of things ---

Q. (interjecting) That's all set out in the Order?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- that the Secretary of Agriculture still has, as usual: the Farm Credit Administration, which includes the Federal Land Banks; Intermediate Credit Banks; Production Credit Corporation; Cooperative Banks; Crop Loan Agencies; also Rural Electrification Administration; Forest Service; the Farm Loan Corporation; the Agricultural Research Administration, including the Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering, Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Dairy Industry,

Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Bureau of Plant Industry, and the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

And he will continue to be a member of the various Boards that he is on now.

Q. Does he have Commodity Credit?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Does he have Commodity Credit?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, he still has the same thing that he had before on that.

Q. Mr. President, will Mr. Davis also be a member of these Boards, like W.P.B.?

THE PRESIDENT: Where necessary, ---

Q. (interjecting) Where necessary?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, will Mr. Davis be added to or replace Wickard on the Economic Stabilization Board?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't the faintest idea. If necessary, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, where will ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- he will also serve on it.

Q. Where will Farm Security (Administration) be?

THE PRESIDENT: Same place it is now. For instance, the Combined Food Board is going to be a very, very important factor during the coming year, and the reason -- one reason is that as we move into the growing, liberated areas around the world, and they are enlarged, re-adjustments of food allocations are going

to be necessary. Food requirements in different areas will have to be carefully weighed in the light of need, and of military and political strategy. And probably Davis will work in with them too, as well as the Secretary of Agriculture.

Q. That is, Farm Security will be under Davis?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no,---

Q. (interjecting) It will not?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- it will not.

Q. Mr. President, is April 27 the date for the United Nations' food conference?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't heard from the State Department. I don't know. You had better ask them, because they ---

Q. (interposing) Some Gross ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- they talked about some date around then. Now whether they have had the answers or not, I couldn't tell you.

Q. There's some Gross (farm) organization that distributed a release that you have announced that that is the date, and that it will be held in Des Moines.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) They must have a very successful Des Moines Chamber of Commerce. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, I wanted to ask one more question about the farm. I notice that they say the Farm Credit is to remain to Wickard. Could you explain how the farm production loans will be handled under this setup?

THE PRESIDENT: I guess they will be handled together

-- jointly. In other words, what you are trying to do is to put this -- put down a blueprint that is so exact that you can't -- the blueprint would take the place of cooperation. You can't do that in this life, to try to run a government -- it's impossible.

Q. The Regional Credit -- Agricultural Credit Corporation will be under Davis?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I read you a long list in here -- Intermediate Credit Banks; Cooperative Banks; Crop Loan Agencies -- they all remain where they are, Farm Credit Administration included. They remain where they are.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, Mayor (Edward J.) Jeffries of Detroit, and Senator (Homer) Ferguson were in to see you a day or so ago. Can you tell us anything about the plans to increase production in the Willow Run plant of the Ford Motor Company? Did you discuss that with those gentlemen?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. They came in primarily (to give me) (?) a check on the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation, and then I started a subject on the problem of how to increase and improve the Willow Run plant production. We have got a board out there -- it isn't one, it's a whole bunch of them -- the city people, and the local people out in Willow Run, and Mr. Ford.

Q. You say they have a board? Is that the new board, or is that a hold-over from ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I couldn't tell you -- don't know. I know that a conference is going on out there on it at the present time.

Q. Is there -- do you have any comment to make at all about Willow Run? Have you any suggestions to make?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there has got to be some new housing out there. Most of the workers there have to go a whole hour (before they can get to the plant). And apparently the Ford organization, in the first instance, on the -- when the plant was built, between them and the Army people -- production people -- they didn't -- they didn't figure out that particular thing. And now it is pretty hard to get people to go an hour to work, and work eight hours, and then come back for an hour before they get home.

Q. (interjecting) Particularly when there are so many jobs around.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Then transportation, of course, is involved.

They were both of them -- I asked them to go around and see two people, one was John Blandford on the Housing end, and the other was (Joseph B.) Eastman on the transportation end.

Q. Are those Ford bombers now moving into combat, Mr. President, or are they to be used for other things?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you that. You mean in the Willow Run plant?

Q. The bombers that are coming off now?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose they are going into combat. When we get bombers, we don't send them abroad -- I don't think it makes much difference which plant they happen to be turned out from.

Q. No. I didn't mean that.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) I wondered whether those bombers had to be modified much after they came off the line, or whether they could be modified there? They say in Detroit that the setup on production was so rigid in that plant that the -- those bombers were not moving into combat. I thought perhaps ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. You know what happens if you -- it's a generalized rather than a technical point, but anybody can understand it. Every few weeks that go by -- any kind of plane -- because of experience in combat, they find some new thing. Now, if you turn that over to the production plant, to make this change in the production plant itself, they all figure out -- the experts -- that it will slow things down more than if you accept the plane and then send it to what they call a "mod" center -- a modification center -- where these slight changes are made, thereby saving time over the other method of upsetting your production line.

And the average length of time for these planes of all kinds that are sent to modification centers is about 30 days; and almost all the planes from all plants go through this 30-day process of necessary modifications. The thing was started in July, (1942), and seems to save time. And all of them rather like the idea of the modification centers, in the place of changing production once a month. I suppose these small plants go into modification centers. I think there are 30 modification centers at the present time.

Q. Mr. President, on this food Order -- this new food Order, generally speaking, does it give Mr. Davis any wider powers than were given to Mr. Wickard on the original Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I should say not.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I had one other thing that I forgot to mention.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) That's it.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The -- I have been a good deal concerned -- we all have -- over the question of farm machinery. When we got into the war, and our effort to turn out all kinds of weapons of war, the W.P.B. encouraged the large manufacturers of farm machinery to convert their plants to the production of war machinery.

W.P.B. admits that they made a mistake in their estimate at that time. They thought it would be sufficient to concentrate the manufacture of farm machinery in smaller plants, and thereby help small business. Well, they find now that the trouble with the farm machinery has been not so much the quantity of it as the faulty distribution throughout the country, due to the fact that these small manufacturers had no distributing organization; only the larger manufacturers had local dealers all over the nation. Well, that is being corrected at the present time by W.P.B.

And the industry as a whole has been allotted more steel, in an amount that they believe would be enough for farm machinery, <u>if</u> they get the proper distribution, using the machinery distributors of the big companies to distribute the product of the big

companies, and also the product of the little companies.

Q. (interposing) Does that mean ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In other words, the ban on manufacture by large producers has been removed.

Q. (interposing) This year?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think it ought to help very much. It ought to help very much.

Q. Is that this year?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. This year, or will it be ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, Yes -- this year.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, there has been some talk that the Administration might support legislation to repeal the Oriental exclusion laws, particularly those against the Chinese. Have you any comment on that situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, the thing was taken up by various Members of the Congress, and others, with the State Department and the Attorney General's office; and we were told what, of course, is absolutely correct, that any change is a Congressional matter. And of course the Departments, if they are summoned before a Congressional committee on a hearing on legislation, they can go down there and testify.

MR. P. BRANDT: Yes. I had heard you couldn't get it over, unless it had Administration support -- Executive support.

THE PRESIDENT: Where did you hear that? (laughter) Pete, you're dreaming.

MR. P. BRANDT: Not on that. (more laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(the newspapermen started to leave)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, look! Before you go running, I have got one more thing for you -- (laughter, and re-assembling of the newspapermen) -- I forgot it -- Steve is making motions at me -- something I don't think has been published before, and that is that under the Tydings Amendment, 550 thousand farm workers have already been deferred from military service. And General Hershey estimates that by the end of this year, 3 million more between the ages of 18 and 37 will be deferred, or a total of 3 and a half million farm workers deferred. And of this 3 million that are going to be deferred the rest of the year, 400 thousand are single, and 2 thousand are married men with wives, or with wives and children.

Q. Is that 2 thousand, or 2 million?

THE PRESIDENT: What? A total of 550 thousand already deferred, 3 million more to be deferred this year, and of that 3 million, 400 thousand are single people, and 2 million are married men with wives, or wives and children.

Q. 2 million, 6?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. 2 million, 600 thousand? We have got a missing 600 thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh! A small matter! (laughter)

Q. What do you think of those figures?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. What do you think of those figures?

THE PRESIDENT: Why, I think they are -- they should be

rather interesting to the country. (laughter)

Q. And the Congress, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. To the country and the Congress?

THE PRESIDENT: And the Congress, sure, ---

Q. (interjecting) And the Governor of Colorado?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- because the Congress represents the country.

Q. Any possibility that it will have an influence on all legislation ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh, now you are getting into the legislative field. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you been furnished with any estimates of how many have been deferred under the blanket deferment of all farm workers, or approximately all farm workers?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite understand it. (meaning the question)

Q. I was trying to avoid mentioning the Bankhead bill -- (laughter) -- but under the Tydings Amendment you already have the 3 million, 500 thousand.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Now look. Let me talk to you off the record about this, in the way of explanation.

So much depends on the attitude of the local Draft Board.

Well, for instance, Senator (John H.) Bankhead, you know, is -- he came to see me about a month ago -- this is all

off the record -- and he said there was a place down there in Alabama, a village in the middle of a farming country, and the Draft Board called up 60 men, one of their -- what? -- monthly procedures. And of the 60 men, 40 of them were farm boys. And the Board said to them, "You are all deferred, every one of you." The boys almost mobbed the Board, and 36 of them said, "Hell, I have got to get into this show. I want to fight. I don't want to stay on the farm." Well, the Board was soft, and they didn't -- but they should have done -- they didn't say to them, "No. You go back to the farm. We won't induct you." There were only 4 out of the 40, according to John Bankhead, that were willing to be deferred for farm work. The other 36 said, "I am going to fight." Well, the Board was, as I say, it was soft-hearted.

And another thing. These Boards are awfully conscientious, and when the Government says to a Board, "Here's your quota," they try their best to fill that quota.

Well now, that is one of the psychological problems before the local Boards. And they ought to, of course, defer farm labor, and not induct a fellow just because he wants to leave the farm and get into the fighting. It's a very difficult thing.

Well, of course now, we have tightened up on them, and we have told them that they have got to defer these farm boys, as they are considered essential to work on the farm -- in the individual case. Of course, that is not true in the case of every farm boy.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President -- I beg your pardon,

sir. Had you finished?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. (continuing) This figure of 3 million to be deferred this year, that is men who are now working on farms?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. That does not apply to furloughs?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That's a separate subject.

Q. (interposing) This prevents ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I haven't got the actual figures with me at the present time, but I think I said the other day that of the boys who are actually in the Army now, we can get, in the case of dairying -- expert dairymen -- we can get quite a large number -- I don't know, what? -- 15 thousand to 20 thousand of them.

But then you have to come to this next thing. I had a case of four or five boys that they wanted to take out of a combat regiment that was within a week or two of leaving for the other side. Well, if you start that process and start to bust your combat -- this is a division -- you start to bust them up after they have done 40 or 42 weeks training, you are going to spoil your Army.

Now, in the case of other expert dairymen in a division, in the same place, which has had only three or four weeks training, it is not going to hurt that division to furlough those boys back to the farms. It all depends on the individual case. You can't have just a plain "rule of thumb." I suppose that's the best illustration I can give you. There will be, probably, a

great many thousands -- first and last -- who will be furloughed back to farm work, ---

Q. (interposing) That's on a temporary ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- well, have been already.

Q. That's on a temporary basis?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, is it your thought, or General Hershey's thought, that that volume of deferments will tend to take care of the farm labor situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, it will help very much.

And then, of course, another thing -- one of the things that Mr. Davis is going to take up, as soon as he gets here, is the creation of -- what? -- I don't like the word very much -- I wish we could get another word for it -- a land army of some kind.

You know, the human equation enters into this a lot. I know three or four farm boys that feel they ought to stick on the farm -- this same idea that is down in Alabama -- they ought to stay by the home farm. But at the same time they want to be able to say to their children, "I was in this war. I was in that great world war." They want something to show for it.

And that is why it all ties in with the problem of National Service. And as I said the other day, we haven't got to it yet, we may have to.

And we do need a reserve of some form of land army. I have had two or three cases of communities that are handling the

thing very well themselves, but that is not true of the -- probably the great majority of communities. They are getting high school boys, and even high school girls and local organizations to help out on the farms where they are most needed. They are getting women who are not so young. They are getting people who can give every morning to it but not every afternoon, and vice versa.

Now, of course, there is one thing we have to remember. On the British experience, and they have had two years more of it than -- two and a half years more of it than we have had, they have increased -- I couldn't tell you the actual figure -- their farm -- their food production from a hundred, let us say, to about 160, which is not bad -- about a 60 percent increase. And that has been largely due to the fact that they have a land army. The British farmers are just like our farmers -- most of them. They don't want to have a lot of young people -- women -- around the farm who are not much accustomed to farm work. And they had all the same kicks about a women's land army.

Well, today it is working awfully well. They are using them. They are not, perhaps, quite as efficient as the ordinary man, -- (laughter) -- they can't pitch hay up to the top of a cart. But their protests -- their original protests have disappeared in the practice of the thing.

I know farming in a good many parts of this country -- I do farming in different parts of the country, and I am perfectly sure, and I have had a good many neighbors from different places who used high school boys or girls to help them out with the

chores around the farms; and they have got accustomed to them. They like it, and they are not curtailing their production.

And incidentally, on this -- rather with that -- all sorts of speeches and scare headlines about the food this year falling off.

One of the most interesting things about all those figures that came out last Friday was the estimated number of acres to be planted for crops -- food crops in this country. And practically all of them showed an increase of 102% of last year, which is the biggest year we had ever had -- 110% -- some of them 120%; and very, very few food crops that showed a -- a decrease in the acreage that they expected to plant.

I don't think we are going to starve too, I remarked. For some of us, it wouldn't be a bad thing if we starved a bit.

Q. Are you thinking of a land army of skilled workers?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Are you thinking of a land army of skilled workers?

THE PRESIDENT: No. There aren't any skilled workers.

Q. Unskilled?

THE PRESIDENT: There aren't any skilled workers that are lying around loose. What do you mean by skilled workers?

Q. Skilled farm workers.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they are either on the farm today, or in munitions factories, or in the Army.

Q. Yes. I understand that.

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing we can do is take them out.

Q. On this land army, would you say people who would have to learn the farm business?

THE PRESIDENT: Mostly people who would have to learn how to do the chores. Did you ever work on a farm?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: You know that chores take up a lot of time, and are an awful lot of work.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIII -- Page 109 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #888
Executive Office of the President
March 30, 1943 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) Hello, Squire.

MR. GODWIN: How are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't seen you for a long time. Have you been shooting quail in South Carolina? (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I have been around. I went to Philadelphia, and other places. I am not a military secret.

THE PRESIDENT: Sometimes I think you are, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Do you think so?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- when you make these disappearances. However, I won't put the F.B.I. on you.

MR. GODWIN: Don't do that!

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. GODWIN: See that? (the Washington Evening Star for March 30 -- "House Will Kill (Ruml) Skip-Year Tax, Rayburn Says -- Martin Equally Sure It Will Pass As Balloting Nears")

THE PRESIDENT: Really!

MR. GODWIN: I don't know whether they will or not. (they did)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: All I have are two matters that I think will make stories for you.

One relates to the manpower thing, in one of its details: dairy workers. As you know, that is one of the -- one of the principal manpower problems in farming, because you

have to have a different technique with dairy makers -- dairy workers from the seasonal crop people, because dairying goes on all the way through the year.

And as a result of their working on it the last couple of weeks, I got a memorandum a little while ago in regard to what has been done.

(during all the following discussion on this subject, the President either read from this memorandum -- not literally -- or referred to it)

The War Department has taken the following action with reference to releasing men who are 38 years of age and over from the Army. On the first of April -- day after tomorrow -- we -- the Army will cease to discharge such individuals, but instead of that they will transfer these people, who are capable of being dairy workers through experience, to the inactive status in the Enlisted Reserve Corps, the man requesting the transfer, in order to go back either to an essential industry like dairying, accompanied by a statement from the (War) Manpower Commission -- well, that means in the individual case practically his local Draft Board -- that his release is desired. But he may be recalled to active duty on the request of the War Manpower Commission, which again is -- is ultimately his own Draft Board, the people in his own neighborhood. Those details of control and recall will be issued by the War Department and the War Manpower Commission -- (through the) Selective Service System in a few days.

Q. Mr. President, does this apply only to dairy workers?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Agriculture as a whole, but we are going after the most difficult problems in the first instance.

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. Does it apply, then, only to Agriculture?

Q. You said any essential industry.

THE PRESIDENT: And industry.

Q. And industry?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Essential industry.

Q. Is there any differentiation between the way ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. Is there any differentiation between the way you are going to handle dairy people and the industry people?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except we need our principal drive on the dairy.

Q. Mr. President, you said the man requests this.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

Q. (continuing) Does the individual soldier make the request, or does someone else make the request?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the way it works out, Pete, is this. Either he can make the request himself, or his -- what? -- his father ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- can make the request.

MR. GODWIN: He will be called back because his old

man needs him?

Q. Or employer?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, or his employer does, or his own local Draft Board.

Q. Is there anything there on how many men might be involved in this, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we are coming to that. This action will mean the man who is placed in the Reserve Corps must continue at work in some essential occupation approved by the Selective Service. In other words, if he goes out on some remunerative job which is not an essential service, he would probably be inducted back into the Army, which is a very logical provision.

Registrants 38 To 45: Chester (C.) Davis is asking the County War Boards, composed of farmers, that wherever there is a shortage of dairy workers they should secure from the local Selective Service Boards the names of registrants between 38 and 45 who are in occupations which are non-deferable, and who have experience as dairy workers or farm workers. They will be urged by the County Board and local Board to seek re-employment as dairy workers.

And fourth, Conscientious Objectors: and in this group there are only -- there are about -- which is a very high percentage -- about 500 experienced dairy workers who, according to General Hershey, can be furnished today to dairy farmers. An additional 18 hundred conscientious objectors with farm experience would probably make good as dairy workers, and are now

available.

Fifth, Men Physically Disabled: there are 2 million between 18 and 45 who have been placed in 4-F because of physical disability. Of these 2 million, 6 thousand 2 hundred between the ages of 18 and 37 -- this is in the younger group -- are experienced dairy workers, but are not now employed on dairy farms. Many thousands of others have had general farm experience. The local Boards will be directed to send for these dairy workers and urge them to return -- to return to their former occupation.

If they refuse, consideration will be given to asking the War Department to waive physical disabilities where such disabilities are so slight that the registrant could be assigned to limited service. That means in the Army.

Sixth, Registrants Over 45: the County War Boards will be directed to secure from Selective Service the names of registrants over 45 having dairy experience, and the War Boards will urge their return to dairy farms.

Seventh, Dairy Workers Who Have Gone Into Industry: if these steps do not adequately relieve the situation, County War Boards will furnish to local Selective Service Boards the names of experienced dairy workers who have left the farm to go into industry. They will be urged to return. It is not deemed wise that this be done at this time, because within the last ten days there has been a back-to-the-farm movement due to the Tydings Amendment.

And finally, Chester Davis is giving priority to his

organization of a land army. Mr. (Samuel) Zemurray, the president of the United Fruit Company, is undertaking to supervise the securing of agricultural workers from the Bahamas and Jamaica. These English-speaking workers will help in the East where they are needed. Mr. Davis is not yet prepared to announce his plans, but in a businesslike way we are providing for bringing in Mexican workers in the Southwest; and most important, for the organization of this land army, about which I spoke, of college students, high school students and volunteer workers who have had some farm experience, and can help harvest the crop this summer.

Q. Mr. President, is that land army to operate in anything except agriculture? For instance, in lumbering?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Oh, I don't know. I don't believe so, because lumbering -- I don't think you can put any high school people into lumbering.

Q. Sir, will the land army compose both men and women and boys and girls?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes.

Q. Mr. President, could we have the text of that memorandum?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it's all right, Steve?

MR. EARLY: It's all right.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there is one point there -- the one spot there where you were speaking about the folks that the Army might put into limited service, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- does that mean that they -- that they can be put into limited service on the farm?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

MR. GODWIN: It isn't that?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no -- general.

MR. GODWIN: Yes. And this other place, where the old man asks for his boy to come back home, does he ask through the Draft Board on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I couldn't tell you.

MR. GODWIN: That's a detail. That's his hometown contact.

Q. Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Some of the old men will probably write to me direct. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sure.

Q. Mr. President, for the people over 38, aren't you setting up a form of National Service much more complete than you have over other groups and populations?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Notice I said the word "urge," in some cases.

Q. I see.

Q. That's the only explanation, is it?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Except for the people who are inducted into the Army.

Q. I mean the group over 45?

THE PRESIDENT: We will relieve them, and put them

on inactive duty.

Q. Those over 45 you also say "urge"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- No, no, no. The ones over 45, we can do it. They are in the Army.

Q. Those who were registrants, but not in the Army, over 45? You mentioned that -- that's in there -- you said you would urge them ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Yes. The County War Boards will be directed to secure from the Selective Service names of registrants ---

Q. (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- over 45 having dairy experience. The Boards will urge their return to dairy farms.

Q. That is as far as they can go?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, in the case of the 4-F registrants, that won't be quite urging, or will it, if they won't go back to essential industry?

THE PRESIDENT: They will give them another physical examination. (laughter)

Q. Well, Mr. President, is there any thought of removing the -- the Executive bar which you established in December to the induction of people over 38 at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. I would have to ask. The case hasn't come up.

Q. Mr. President, will that require appropriations from Congress, to move these workers from outside the country?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know whether it would come in under the Federal funds that the Army has got or not. Maybe we would have to. And, of course, that means not only the cost of getting them here but the cost of taking them out at the end of the war -- sending them home.

Now on the other thing.

Mr. (Sir Anthony) Eden has left, and we decided that it was probably better not to give out one of those formal statements by the two of us. And he asked me to just talk to you all informally about it.

We are in entire agreement. We have had these series -- he has had these series of conferences with a lot of people -- the Secretary of State and his advisers, and the Members of the Senate and the House; and he took a little trip to see some of the camps.

We talked about everything -- might be put down as current military and political affairs, and other questions arising out of the war relating to the present and the future.

I think I can say for both of us that they disclose very close similarity of outlook on the part of the two governments, and a very fruitful meeting of the minds on all the matters that came under discussion.

We talked about the practical problems that will arise on the surrender of the enemy -- problems that will face the governments of the United States, and United Kingdom, and China, and Russia, and all of the other United Nations, primarily in safeguarding the world from future aggression.

I think I ought to make it clear that -- I think you should all make it clear that these conversations are exploratory. The object of them was not to reach final decisions, which were, of course, impossible at this stage; but to reach a large measure of general agreement on objectives. So as to take time by the forelock, and as a result of these conferences, they will be of great aid in further conferences between all of the United Nations.

I also want to make it very clear that these conferences are by no means confined to the United Kingdom and the United States. They are merely one small part of the long series of conferences between the other United Nations.

We have talked, for example, already rather intimately about these various subjects, with China, and with one or two of the South American Republics. Mr. Eden himself has been to Russia and talked in regard to many of these problems with Mr. (Josef) Stalin, Mr. (Vyacheslav) Molotov, and other members of the Russian government.

I hope and expect that we will be continuing discussions along these lines with the Russian government in the very near future, and with other members of the United Nations. And therefore, these are -- you might put it this way: that these conversations constitute one method of working toward the unity of the United Nations, which is going along extremely well.

Some people ought to take note of that.

And the other method, of course, is through the more formal gathering, such as we will have next month with the

United Nations, in regard to the subject of -- of food, to be followed a little later by a similar one in regard to relief; and possibly a little later by another exploratory conference in regard to finances; and possibly another one in regard to things out of the ground. The -- the food thing will probably include things that grow out of the ground, and the other one would refer to things that come out from under the surface -- minerals, metals, oil, and so forth.

So you see, the thing is -- is progressing in a very satisfactory way.

If some of you go back -- some of you can, like myself -- go back to 1918, the war came to a rather sudden end in November, 1918. And actually it's a fact that there had been very little work done on the post-war problems before Armistice Day. Well, during Armistice Day and the time that the nations met in Paris early in 1919, everybody was rushing around trying to dig up things.

And the simile I used to Mr. Eden the other day was that -- I was here at the time -- and the -- the tempo seemed to be that of the lady who is told at Noon that she is to accompany her husband on a month's trip on the three o'clock train that afternoon. Well, I have seen ladies trying to pack for a month's trip in three hours, and that was a little bit the situation over here, and everywhere else, in making preparations for the Versailles conference. Everybody was rushing around grabbing things out of closets and throwing them into suitcases. Some of the needed large portions of things out

of the cupboards were not needed at all.

I have forgotten how many experts we took to Versailles at that time, but everybody who had a "happy thought," or who thought he was an expert got a free ride. (laughter)

And that is why I think that this whole method that is going on now is a very valuable thing, in an exploratory way, and incidentally -- as I remarked the other day -- in the process of getting to know each other.

I would say -- I would put it -- if you want to be didactic and put it in terms of figures, I would say that so far, in all of the conferences that we have held with other members of the United Nations -- this is not just the British -- they come into it too -- but we are about 95 percent together. Well, that's -- that's an amazing statement. It happens to be true. I wish some people would put that in their pipes and smoke it. (laughter)

So it was a very good conference.

Q. Can we quote that last part directly? Why don't you let us have that part about the "amazing statement," and so forth?

THE PRESIDENT: The 95 percent?

Q. Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. That's all right.

Q. Also about the "amazing statement"?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. It will only stir up controversy. You wouldn't do that. (laughter)

MR. ROMAGNA: (reading): We are about 95 percent

together.

Q. No, before that.

MR. ROMAGNA: Starting from, "If you want to be didactic"?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. ROMAGNA: Starting from, "If you want to be didactic"?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. ROMAGNA: (reading): If you want to be didactic and put it in terms of figures, I would say that so far, in all of the conferences that we have held with other members of the United Nations -- this is not just the British, they come into it too ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Better say it applies to the others also.

MR. ROMAGNA: (continuing reading): -- we are about 95 percent together. Well, that is an amazing statement. (and then seeking confirmation from the President) It happens to be true.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. ROMAGNA: It happens to be true.

THE PRESIDENT: You can put that in, "It happens to be true."

Q. Could you tell us anything about the 5 percent?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could you tell us anything about that 5 percent?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that -- every -- every additional conversation eliminates a little bit more of the 5 percent.

Q. Mr. President, when you say it applies to the others as well, that includes Russia, does it not?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. And China?

THE PRESIDENT: And China.

Q. Mr. President, you spoke of plans to have conversations with Russia in the near future. Is there anything more specific we can have on that? This summer, do you plan ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No -- not today. (laughter)

Q. Is hope still "springing eternal" about Mr. Stalin?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Do you expect a surprise visit ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. Do you expect to be surprised by somebody arriving?

THE PRESIDENT: You never can tell.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there's a war being fought on both sides of us. You spoke of post-war plans and these conversations. It might be perfectly childish to ask it, but in my mind it seemed -- this seems to mean the cessation of the war in Europe on this particular thing?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: No. Am I wrong about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. It's absolutely all over. It's all the -- all the hemispheres, and continents, and seas.

Q. If they don't end at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. If the combat doesn't end at the same time in those hemispheres?

THE PRESIDENT: Keep right on until we clean up the other ones.

Q. That doesn't affect what we are talking about now?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Also very satisfactory agreement that if one of our enemies were to blow up ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- before the other one, we would begin immediately on certain immediate post-war problems with the fellow that had blown up ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- Yes -- and then concentrate our military and naval forces against the fellow who hadn't blown up.

Q. You said that Germany blew up quickly last time. You are not drawing any parallel there, are you?

THE PRESIDENT: Did you go to school in Germany ever?

Q. No.

Q. Mr. President, does -- do these talks you have had look toward the signatures on any agreements smaller than that of the United Nations as a whole?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't like to reduce things to signed documents. A general plan will cover everything pretty well. Get away from the formalities. Let's get on with the work. You know, you can do a lot by gentlemen's agreements, and we have got -- what is it? -- 31 people who are gentlemen in this particular kind of show.

Q. "Pact" is a bad word to use, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Yes. It's a headline word -- doesn't mean a damn thing. (laughter)

Q. Can we quote you on that? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No!

I can't think of anything else I have got today.

Q. Mr. President, do you have a report that Prime Minister (Peter) Fraser of New Zealand has invited you and Mrs. Roosevelt down there? Have you received that?

THE PRESIDENT: I would love to go. I am sure both of us would love to go.

Q. Have you received the invitation yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have got it sometime before.

Q. Right in that corner of the world, there's a report that Senator (James M.) Mead (Democrat of New York) is going to Australia to do some personal work for you, at the same time the Truman Committee goes down.

THE PRESIDENT: Haven't heard of that.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your talk with Chester Davis and the four farm leaders?

THE PRESIDENT: It was along that same -- same line,

principally the question of manpower.

Q. Did they raise with you, sir, the question of whether Mr. Davis should have the complete say on farm prices?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. They did not?

THE PRESIDENT: No. They weren't dumb enough.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Did Mr. Davis's attitude toward price stability come up?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #889
Executive Office of the President
April 6, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. How are you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm fine.

Q. That's good.

THE PRESIDENT: How is the behavior of everybody? Is it all right?

Q. Relative.

THE PRESIDENT: Relative? On a Tuesday and not a Monday? My God, that's bad. (laughter)

Q. They carry over nowadays.

THE PRESIDENT: I see.

Q. Is that all for us today? (a large pile of papers in front of the President)

THE PRESIDENT: No. That's today's dispatches which I haven't read yet. (and then to Mr. Early) What else have you got, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Just the Press.

THE PRESIDENT: That all? I guess I'll pull up my sleeves a little. (laughter) (the President was not wearing his jacket)

MR. GODWIN: Summer!

THE PRESIDENT: I hate a coat and a vest.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says he hasn't got a blessed thing today. I can't think of anything.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Any news about the Bankhead bill vote?

Q. They are going to refer it back to committee.

THE PRESIDENT: They can't over-ride the veto?

Q. Apparently no vote.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. No vote on it today, sir.

Q. No.

MR. GODWIN: I think they can over-ride it.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: I think they can but they are not going to. I beg -- the other way.

Q. (interjecting) They can't.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) Send it back to the "garage."

THE PRESIDENT: I see. Well, that's one way of not having to commit yourself. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, do you know anything about the background of an order that General (George C.) Marshall is supposed to have issued, to the effect that no member of the military forces on active duty can seek or accept an elective office -- public office -- unless it happens to be one that he occupied when he went on active duty?

THE PRESIDENT: Never heard of it. Who is that directed against? (laughter)

Q. I would like to know.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. Mr. President, there is some dispatch coming in from London this afternoon, relative to a mission which the United States is sending to Russia. Can you tell us something about it? Is it the sort of matter that ties in with what you were talking about last week?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I haven't heard of a single person going over there.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to make any comment on the statement issued by the Fighting French in London yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't see that. What did they say?

Q. General (Dwight D.) Eisenhower had sent a request to General (Charles) De Gaulle ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I saw it in the papers. I haven't heard a thing about it. It may be in these dispatches on the desk that I haven't read yet.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything that can be said at this time about the prospects of an offensive in Europe this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I wouldn't -- I wouldn't if I could, you know that. I couldn't possibly.

Q. Mr. President, have you decided yet whether you are going to sign the debt limitation bill which is before you?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I can give you any news on it yet. I don't -- what's the last date?

MR. EARLY: The tenth.

Q. 10th.

MR. EARLY: 10th.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: 10th.

THE PRESIDENT: 10th. I don't think I can give you anything today on that.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us -- (much laughter) -- whether you have any plans to nominate Mayor (Fiorello) LaGuardia for a commission in the Army?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I haven't.

Q. You haven't anything?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: Sir, I didn't understand that answer. Was it, you do not ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I haven't got any plans.

Q. In other words, Mr. President, the stories are sheer "wool-gathering," about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I wouldn't put it quite that way. He wants to get into active service somewhere, but I don't think that anything has been decided one way or the other. We all know he wants to get into the Army, but when and in what capacity I don't think anything has been done about it.

Q. Mr. President, are you planning to appoint a governor of Sicily soon? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you know I don't cross bridges until I come to them.

Q. That's a long bridge.

Q. Mr. President, are you activating this tax plan in any way up on the Hill?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I understood that Bob Doughton had gone home. I have heard nothing since that action in the House.

Q. That doesn't solve our problem. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think the question before the Ways and Means Committee is the taking up of those two very important things. One is the -- the Trade Agreements bill for the extension of the trade agreements, and the other one is the ---

Q. (interjecting) Coal.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- the Bituminous Coal Committee bill, which is to be the extension of the Coal Commission, which I think expires on the 30th of April, along there. And I think that the Ways and Means Committee is going to start hearings on one or both of those on the -- on the 12th of April. They told me that this morning.

Q. Well, Mr. President, is it still your feeling that there should be some sort of pay-as-you-go tax legislation?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't let -- you know we've had an awful time over that. (laughter) Don't start another one of those. (more laughter)

Q. Sorry!

Q. Mr. President, do you see -- are you for an early application of the withholding tax?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the same question put differently.

Q. That doesn't include pay-as-you-go.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. That doesn't necessarily include pay-as-you-go.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, it's all -- it's all wrapped up in the same handkerchief.

Q. Mr. President, is there any connection between Secretary (of the Treasury Henry) Morgenthau's plan about gold, and the expiration of your gold powers on June 30th?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't even know that they expired.

Q. They do.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, of course, at the end of this exploratory period we will have to get all kinds of legislation. But in the exploratory period we don't ask for legislation. I don't know what they will do about the -- this particular thing on the 30th of June.

Of course, I think on some of those things which are, so to speak, in the -- in the right-hand drawer of the desk -- put there for future need -- that the Congress in the past has done on several occasions, they have extended powers for a relatively short period, which is always one way of handling it, so that the thing remains active, but which can die at the end of a short time, if the Congress wants to have the thing die.

Q. It's more or less necessary to have some -- something available for negotiations, is it not?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know, Pete (Brandt). I really don't know enough about it.

Q. That is -- always has been.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, but I imagine that on negotiations affecting the gold reserve behind the currency of the world, we ought to get Congressional action anyway, when the plan is decided on.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. (interposing) Could that cave in Kentucky be internationalized?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Could that cave in Kentucky be internationalized?

(the President laughed)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Okay, we'll withdraw that.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIII -- page 150 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #890
Executive Office of the President
April 9, 1943 -- 10.55 AM, EWT

(James F. Byrnes, Economic Stabilization Director was present at this Press Conference)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got only one thing this morning, and that is that Mr. Chester (C.) Davis has officially named the group of volunteers who will help with getting the crops in: the U. S. Crop Corps.

Well, we have used -- I have used myself the words "land army," in the absence of any other, but I don't think we want to confuse people by having a name other than the -- different from the official name. And I am going to ask you to -- all to make it clear about this thing that is being organized: the U. S. Crop Corps.

And that goes along with quite a lot of work that has been done already in setting it up and encouraging it through private agencies, advertising agencies, and so forth. During the last few weeks it has been going out all over the country under the name of the U. S. Crop Corps. So I hope everybody will conform.

Q. Mr. President, is there any idea how big that group will be?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't know. I imagine several million.

Q. Mr. President, in your -- regarding your Executive Order last night, could you tell us, sir, how materially would you increase the powers of Economic Stabilization Director Byrnes?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, let's ask Mr. Byrnes. How much more power would you get, Jimmie?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: I do not know of any material increase in power, except the authority in Section 5, where there is greater authority to determine questions that will arise in the Office of Price Administration, and the War Labor Board, as to border cases, hardship cases, where those cases in -- under that Section would be presented to me for consideration, instead of to the President personally. Otherwise, the -- the power to issue directives is no greater than the general powers contained in (Executive Order) #9250, to establish national policies and issue the directives to enforce -- to enforce those policies.

Q. Does that mean that the principal importance of it is as a mandate?

THE PRESIDENT: No. A statement of a policy. I wouldn't put it the other way.

There is one thing, if you want to follow it up a bit. The other day, in the agricultural group meeting that I had, one of the people present put it rather well. He said this whole question of the cost of living is like a stool, not with two legs, which is difficult to balance, or three legs -- it's a four-legged stool.

(One leg is) the control of holding the line on wages.

(A second leg is) holding the line on the cost of food.

And the third is the development of the rationing system so that it can be applied with what might be called a -- a leeway. In some cases you would have to take in particular articles, changing the price of the articles from time to time, depending on the scarcity or the plenty, and in the same way applying the cost of the food policy regionally, or by areas, or by localities.

We would try to avoid, for example, the situation which we all know happened here, and a few other places, where there were screaming headlines one week that there isn't any meat, and about a week or ten days later screaming headlines there's so much meat and it's all spoiling. That happened right here in the District.

And I think we ought to all avoid -- everybody ought to avoid the -- the overplaying of scarcity or of overplenty, because it isn't a good thing for public morale. The total differential between a scarcity and an overplenty is a very small thing, but if the public either ceases to buy or tries -- everybody -- to buy at the same time, you necessarily have trouble.

And the fourth leg of the stool is equally important with the other three, and that is the problem of preventing too much purchasing power in the form of cash. That means the development of taxation and savings -- those two elements.

I always think of the fellow who came to see me about two weeks ago -- I think I mentioned it -- an old friend of

mine, not far from Washington, but not in Washington. He came in to complain about the cost of living. And I have known him a great many years. He is a very highly skilled mechanic, getting mighty good wages, and very thankful for it, but he was complaining about what his wife said to him every night when he got home.

And the previous night his wife had said, "This is terrible." And holding up in front of her a little bunch of asparagus, she said, "What do you think? A dollar and a half for this little bunch of asparagus!" It was about the middle of March.

Well, said this man to me, "It's terrible. A bunch of asparagus a dollar and a half!"

I said, "Look. I am just going to ask you a question -- maybe I'm right, maybe I'm wrong. Did your wife ever buy a bunch of asparagus in March before?"

He said, "Why, what do you mean?"

I said, "You know where it came from? It came from Florida. Did you ever eat Florida asparagus in March before?"

He said, "You know, I never thought of that. I will have to talk to my wife about it."

And I said -- just -- just a shot in the dark, "Do you remember in the last couple of months, have you eaten any fresh strawberries?"

He said, "Yes, come to think about it. About the end of February we had an awfully nice box of fresh strawberries."

I said, "Did you ever do that before?"

He said, "No, I guess not."

"Well, you know where they came from? Probably raised under glass, or something like that, down in the south of Florida."

There is a great deal of that in the country, and it comes from the fact that so many people have a great deal more money in their pay envelopes on Saturday night than they ever had before, that they want to go into the luxury business of eating.

And therefore, taxation and savings are the answer, one of the legs -- of the four legs of the stool.

And that is -- that is -- that really is essentially the whole picture that we are working on with Director Byrnes, to try to prevent the ups and the downs and get on a more even level, using all four of these legs to keep the stool from falling over. And this new (Executive) Order is just a step in that direction. It doesn't take up the question of taxes or compulsory savings. That is a thing that, of course, is being worked on in the -- in the Congress at the present time.

Q. Mr. President, in regard to taxes, in your Budget Message you asked for 16 billion dollars, as I remember it. Is that still the Administration goal, or has it ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is the Administration hope.

Q. Hope. Yes, sir.

MR. F. PASLEY: Mr. President, this is off the record, this question. My editor wishes to know what method was used in selecting the six newspaper correspondents who will

accompany you on your forthcoming trip? He was advised of the trip in a note sent from the Office of Censorship.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, in the first place, it's a question of whether I go; (in the) second place of where I go. And as you know, if I should suggest Grant Land, for example, I would probably take less people than if I went somewhere else. Grant Land is across the Strait from the northern end of Greenland. I have to take all those factors into consideration. What we are trying to do is perfectly obvious, if and when I should go, and that is to take as many people as I can. I think that really answers it.

MR. F. PASLEY: (interjecting) Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I don't see any other way of doing it -- take as many people as I can.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, have you signed ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) In some cases, as you know -- for instance, the last trip to North Africa -- I couldn't take anybody.

Q. Mr. President, ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) All of which, Mr. President, might be off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: That is all off the record, of course.

Q. Mr. President, there appears to be controversy in the Senate as to what portion of which committee is going to tour the war fronts; -- (laughter) -- and they say that -- some of them say it's on your desk for determination, and on (General George C.) Marshall's desk for determination?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. What happened was -- for example, one -- Oh, about two months ago I think it was, the Truman Committee asked if they could send -- you see, they cover almost everything -- Army, Navy, and all the other things -- supplies of all kinds -- whether they could send a small committee of, I think it was four to North Africa.

Well, I took it up immediately with General Marshall, and General Marshall wrote a letter, which I promptly sent to the members of the Committee, in which he said he would like to take as many as he could in the way of committees to the other side, but that we had to realize that every civilian that goes over there means just that less tonnage in people, and baggage -- the capacity of the plane, or planes -- it's robbing the armed forces, and robbing the supplies over there. And therefore he expressed the hope that without in any way saying he couldn't -- he couldn't take members of the Congress or the Senate, that they would be limited just as far as possible.

Well, that's -- that's all there is. It now falls within the jurisdiction of the -- of the Senate.

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Isn't that another argument to two fronts?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Isn't that -- isn't that another argument to two fronts?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, have you decided yet what you are going to do about the Debt Extension bill?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q. (adding) Debt Limit bill?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) You are 24 hours too early.

Q. Well, Mr. President, do I understand the Truman Committee is the only Committee that you have been asked permission for ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That's the only one that came -- that letter to me about ten days ago I sent over to General Marshall. I haven't heard of any other.

Q. Mr. President, on the question of controlling food prices under this new Order, is it contemplated that prices will be placed on commodities, as they have been on meat, for instance -- specific retail sales prices for them?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably.

Q. That would extend then, sir, to things in a department store?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, they are not -- they are not all edibles.

Q. Well, cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Cost of living?

THE PRESIDENT: Cost of living items.

Q. Clothing?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Like clothing?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, I wouldn't say clothing,

because at the present time there is no need of clothing.

Q. What do you mean by that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't mean -----. (loud laughter) No need of putting a ceiling on clothing at the present time. (continued laughter)

Q. Do you have in mind then, sir, specific control of commodities outside of edibles?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, there might be. Can't tell.

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Mr. President, I might add that the O.P.A. (Office of Price Administration) is now working out a plan, which I imagine they would be able to present about tomorrow. They have certain ideas as to how it should affect the commodities, and following the meat plan in great part, so that the purchaser going into a store can see the price, so that the price can be advertised in the newspapers, and the housewives of the nation can help police it.

Q. Will there be a ceiling price on fresh vegetables?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: That is for the determination of the Administrator, the language of the President's Order stating "all commodities affecting the cost of living." On some vegetables we have; some we have not. That is for the determination of the Food Administrator. If they affect the cost of living in his determination, it will be done.

Q. Will that involve grade-labeling of canned goods?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: I could not say, because that too would be for the determination of the Administrator, as to whether or not it would affect the price of the article when sold to the

consumer, and thus affect the cost of living. It is -- everything back of the retail -- of the commodity offered for sale at retail must be determined by him in the light of that language.

Q. Will there be ceilings on farm prices?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Under the regulations, the power to place what they call the "power to control wages" was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Agricultural labor was defined as labor receiving less than 24 hundred dollars, at that time, which was -- no action was taken because of the farm situation and the necessity of getting employees to the farms. It is now going to be reviewed, in order to determine whether the situation has changed, so as to cause a change in the plan and place a ceiling, and if so what ceiling should be placed. I have requested Director Davis, having in mind ---

Q. (interposing) My question had to do with the prices of farm commodities.

DIRECTOR BYRNES: I thought you said Farm labor?

Q. Farm prices.

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Oh, No. On farm -- according to what is meant by my answer to the first question, that on all commodities affecting the cost of living there may be some minor vegetable that the Administrator would determine did not affect the cost of living, and he would not place a ceiling on it. Unless he does reach that determination, a ceiling will be placed on it.

Q. Mr. Justice, does that mean placing the ceilings

at retail or at the farm?

JUSTICE BYRNES: At retail. Affecting the cost of living at retail, unless back of the retail level there is a commodity the price of which must be fixed, because the law requires that a fair margin shall be allowed. It may be necessary to fix the price therefor of some commodity which is not sold at retail but at wholesale.

Q. Would it be necessary to fix livestock prices?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: I gave you the answer to that question. If the Administrator determines that it was necessary, then it would be fixed.

Q. To what extent do you anticipate being able to roll back prices?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: The Price Administrator hopes that in a number of cases it can be done. I have no personal information as to the extent to which it could be done.

Q. Are workers more or less frozen into their jobs in essential industries?

DIRECTOR BYRNES: Well, the only effect of the Manpower Commission is to make clear -- Manpower Commission Section is to make clear that the Chairman of the Commission has the power now to do what he has done before -- he was attempting to do to some degree. His powers exercised under Executive Order, under this directive -- or rather it isn't a directive -- under this authorization he has greater power, because this Order and this authorization are based upon the Act of October 2, (1942), and therefore the sanctions of that Act would follow the language of this

Section. That is really the important part of this Order.

Q. Thank you very much.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIII -- page 158 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #891
Aboard the train, enroute from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to
Fort Worth, Texas
April 19, 1943 -- 3.30 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: How do the photographers like their uniforms?

Q. They don't think so much of the uniforms, but they like the salutes. They are giving a dollar to everybody who salutes them.

Q. Mr. President, have you seen George Skadding making a two-armed salute -- making a picture and saluting at the same time?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. I wonder what Life Magazine will say about these pictures? How do you like the way they are being worked out this tour?

THE PRESIDENT: Fine, but I don't know that they will.

Q. Mr. President, will you give us some background on the trip to Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: There are a number of things behind it. In the first place, it goes back to the summer of 1941, when General (Avila) Camacho and I corresponded in regard to a meeting that fall, or in January, 1942. Then, of course, came our getting into the war, and the whole thing was called off. This is a postponed visit.

I think -- I don't know, you had better check me -- the President of the United States and the President of Mexico have not seen each other in 34 years. I don't remember back

that far. My impression is that Mr. Taft and the Mexican President met in the middle of the bridge -- something like that. If either one crossed the border, it was just a few feet.

(Mr. Early stated it was at the dedication of the International Bridge at El Paso in 1909)

Q. Is there any particular meaning behind this conference with Camacho?

THE PRESIDENT: The only thing is that I have seen a great many of the Presidents of the other Republics on my trips down there and subsequently. Well, it is part of the old game of getting to know each other better. As a result of these conferences all kinds of new leads come up.

I have talked with a number of South American and Central American Presidents a great deal about immigration into those Republics. In other words, a great many of them feel that they would like to -- how should I state it? -- instead of having a melting pot that grew up by pure chance in this country, they would like to immigrate a select melting pot that was planned more or less beforehand, so that they would avoid the mistakes of the past.

As for example, the enormous immigration of Germans into Southern Brazil, where for a group of Germans there is no melting pot whatever. The language is German, the street-signs are in German, they bank in German, they do no mixing at all with the population of the nation. It is that very same thing that every nation wants to avoid. That came as a result of a

number of talks with South American Presidents.

Of course, Camacho and I won't have very much time. We will talk about the future of the United States and Mexico.

I think there is one thing that could be stressed. There has been a great deal of talk about the undefended and unfortified border between the United States and Canada, but no one has ever mentioned the unfortified border between the United States and Mexico -- very nearly 100, or 96, years.

Q. There are not any immediate problems confronting you on those two questions?

THE PRESIDENT: Nothing that has not been worked out. The Mexican labor question, bringing farm labor north, especially to the large areas where it is largely a seasonal problem, that is working out quite successfully. The whole problem is working out satisfactorily. And that is why I seek these little fresh-air exploitations.

Q. Who will we have from Washington? (Under) Secretary (of State Sumner) Welles?

THE PRESIDENT: Welles is coming. He is bringing young Bonsal.

Q. Nelson?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Philip Bonsal. You will probably remember Steve Bonsal.

Q. Is he the Head of the Latin American Division?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think he is. (Mr. Early stated that he was)

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you might

discuss in a general way? Any means of greater cooperation on the war effort? In particular, getting more war materials out of Mexico?

THE PRESIDENT: We get a lot now. We are training quite a lot of their personnel. We will see at Corpus Christi quite a lot of Mexican aviators, possibly other aviators from the Latin American countries.

Q. There have been some reports that Mexican troops might possibly be used as occupation troops in North Africa. Do you wish to touch on that point?

THE PRESIDENT: That is too general a point.

Q. I don't know whether it would be feasible or not, for security reasons, but would it be possible for you to tell us anything about the physical location of your meeting with Camacho?

THE PRESIDENT: When we land, I will be met by Camacho and we go through the streets -- Monterrey is quite a manufacturing town -- got a steel plant -- quite prosperous. Then we go to the capitol of the state (Nueva Leon) -- the capitol building -- and there, I think, Camacho and I take a review. I imagine it will consist of a motorized division -- Mexican division -- and flocks of schoolchildren, because they love to parade the schoolchildren. Then we go to the Patio and have dinner -- a very simple dinner. Then do the broadcast. Then back to the train.

Q. Do you go back to the capitol building for the broadcast?

THE PRESIDENT: The broadcast and banquet will be in the military city. The Mexicans are a little bit like Washington. They have given up all formal clothes.

Q. They still like to put on a big show, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. President Camacho has not been in Monterrey since he was inaugurated. He was headed for it, anyway.

Q. Your previous meeting, how did you plan that?

THE PRESIDENT: Actually the plan was that we meet somewhere off Tampico and Corpus Christi on our respective little ships, and go fishing together. But that is out.

Q. Which doesn't please you?

THE PRESIDENT: Not a bit.

Q. What were you going fishing for?

THE PRESIDENT: Tarpon. You have heard of them before. Tarpon fishing, compared to sailfish fishing, is nothing at all, but tarpon fishing is great.

Q. What has impressed you most of all of what we have seen so far?

THE PRESIDENT: I have tried to think of that.

Offhand, I should say on the whole, the great improvement I have seen since last September in the training of troops of all kinds. I think we are turning out troops that are in better physical condition and probably more snappy than they were even last fall, which was, of course, still relatively the early part of the training program. We do have to remember that we

have seen more seasoned troops on this trip than we did last fall.

Q. You seem to be concentrating this trip on military installations.

THE PRESIDENT: That is so, what we have been through so far. But we have a lot of installations.

Q. What about the Navy? Have there been any complaints?

THE PRESIDENT: No, except we passed up the WAVES entirely, possibly because the War Department arranged the trip. I'm afraid the WAACs will do a lot of crowing. In fact, we have the WAVES right here in the State of Oklahoma. But that's the Admiral's show.

Q. If the WAACs start crowing, that makes them hens, doesn't it? (laughter)

Q. At the end of the last trip, were you very impressed by the fact that the country seemed far ahead?

THE PRESIDENT: Far ahead. Exactly the same thing. They have a much better sense of proportion, a better prospectus than we do in Washington.

Q. Are you ready to prescribe similar inspection trips for other people in Washington?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be an awfully good idea. In fact, I have not seen or heard of a single "bloc."

Q. What do you think of the general morale of the troops?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it is very high. Of course,

it is not a fair comparison with that of the troops who went overseas in 1917, because the troops that are going over now are just about ready to take part in the fight, whereas when the overwhelming majority of troops who went over in the first World War got there, they had to go into training some 100 miles or so behind the lines. I suppose if you take the physical condition, there is a general definite improvement over the first World War, and in sanitation, efficiency, and food.

Q. One WAAC officer with whom I talked told me that the Army Air Force alone could use 300 thousand WAACs, and that eventually the Army camps could use 600 thousand WAACs. Have you anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think the time has come to discuss the raising of that number. Let's get the 150 thousand, the present authorized strength, first. That's just like the question of the total strength of the Army. It's a question that has to be decided every three or six months. The WAACs do not take as long to train as a fighting division. In one case it takes two months; in the other case it lasts for years.

(the following was off the record):

THE PRESIDENT: I was glad to see this morning the Douglas plant at Tulsa actually turning out planes. I don't think it's a secret any more. Last year we went through the same kind of plant at Forth Worth, and both of them depend mainly on the parts they get from Willow Run. Willow Run has been coming on much better in the last few months, but it is still

down to about only one-half production. Then, of course, I have only seen that one plant so far.

You remember last fall that the various airplane factories employed from 25 to 30 percent women. The total of them this spring should be up to about one-half. This plant this morning was over one-half. The girls are doing well, turning out excellent jobs. That is another reason why the manpower problem is not as serious as Washington made it out to be. We still have an enormous reserve of women.

(end of off the record)

Q. Mr. President, are you getting a boost out of this trip? Getting your mind from the things that are out of proportion? Getting a better prospectus?

THE PRESIDENT: That brings up the thing I started to talk about yesterday at lunch: the very permanent value -- educational, physical -- of all these camps. The average boy who goes through one of these camps -- the average WAAC -- shows a tremendous improvement in his or her health and mental alertness, to say nothing of the future. A year in training of this kind does nobody any harm. It is all right.

Q. Be kind of foolish to stop it now?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not ready to talk about it yet.

These buildings that we have seen at this last place are all new. They are good for 25 years, without any question. Most of the World War buildings have kept up for 25 years, with little upkeep. Many are still in use.

Q. A year of training of this kind does no one any harm.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you can put it another way. I am talking now about men. They put on about 10 pounds, they pull in their belts about four inches, and put about one inch on their chests. That doesn't harm anybody. You might say that with rationing they are going to be a right good race after a while.

Q. Is it true that they put on nearly one inch in height due to calisthenics?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, that is right. Of course, as far as the officers go, with the uniform in the field, there is very little distinction between an officer and a private. You have to look pretty close to see who is who.

The other thing I think that strikes one is the cutting down of the age of the higher officers. There are much younger higher officers than in the last war. I say, as a general proposition, on the whole, the morale of the officers and men is very high. There is great eagerness on their part to get into the "show" and get it over with.

Q. The troops you have seen will do a good job over in Europe?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say so -- the ones I saw over there in North Africa, as well as those back home.

Q. Do you want to say anything about the wealth of material in comparison with what we started with?

THE PRESIDENT: I really have not thought of it in that light, but it is true. Last fall, while we did

have enough material for the actual training, the big peak in production hadn't come along. We always have to learn we have to have spares for everything, except in the case of food. For every article that goes into the war we have to have another of the same thing behind the line. We wear out a lot of war materials.

Q. Have you made any startling discoveries on this trip, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Only the one -- I think I mentioned it to you yesterday. The only discovery I have made was down there in the Marines, where they have taken all the neurotic cases and put them out on the farm to work, with the cows, the chickens and the vegetables. And they are getting a very, very high percentage of complete recoveries, instead of discharging them in the ordinary method of handling them.

Q. They also raise a good percentage of their food, don't they?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. 20 to 25 percent.

(reported by W.M.Rigden) ...

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #892
Executive Office of the President
April 29, 1943 -- 12.05 P.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held immediately upon the return of the President from Mexico)

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning -- good morning. How are you?

Q. (one of the newspapermen who was on the trip) Haven't we seen you somewhere before?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. We have seen you somewhere before.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (to W. H. Lawrence) Bill, how did you get so tanned?

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: I dead-headed from Omaha, Mr. President. I stayed out of sight.

THE PRESIDENT: How did he behave on the train? All right?

Q. Not too well.

MR. W. H. LAWRENCE. They wouldn't let me see you.

Q. That's what Mac (M. H. McIntyre) said.

Q. Landed in a blaze of glory.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Before we talk about the trip, I have got one very simple letter here, which I will read -- it isn't a letter -- a telegram, to John L. Lewis (President of the

United Mine Workers) and to (Thomas) Kennedy (Secretary-Treasurer of the United Mine Workers), who are in New York, one at the Biltmore -- that's Lewis -- and Kennedy, apparently at the Hotel Roosevelt. Steve will have copies of this as soon as you get out. He is finishing the mimeographing now.

I suppose I might as well read it. There isn't anything else to add to it.

(reading): "The controversy between the United Mine Workers of America and the operators of the coal mines has been certified to the National War Labor Board for settlement.

"The officials of the United Mine Workers were invited by the Board to recommend a person for appointment to the panel charged with investigating the facts. They ignored the invitation. The Board then appointed Mr. David B. Robertson of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen to represent the employees; Mr. Walter White to represent the operators, and Mr. Morris L. Cooke to represent the public.

"The personnel of this panel assures an impartial investigation of the facts to be used by the Board in its determination of the controversy, in accordance with the law.

"The officials of the United Mine Workers of America have ignored the request of the Board that they present their case to the National War Labor Board panel, and likewise have ignored the request of the Board that the strikers be urged to return to their work. I am advised that many thousands of miners are out on strike, and strikes are threatened at many other mines which are now in operation.

"The procedure that has been followed in this case by the Board is, I am assured, in exact accord with that followed in all other controversies of this character.

"In view of the statements made in telegrams to me from some members of the United Mine Workers that O.P.A. price regulations have been disregarded, and that the cost of living has gone up disproportionately in mining areas, I have directed the O.P.A. to make an immediate investigation of the facts, and wherever a violation of law is disclosed by that investigation, to see that the violators of the law are prosecuted.

"Strikes and stoppages in the coal industry that have occurred and are threatened are in clear violation of the 'no-strike' pledge.

"These are not mere strikes against employers of this industry to enforce collective bargaining demands. They are strikes against the United States Government itself.

"These strikes are a direct interference with the prosecution of the war. They challenge the Governmental machinery that has been set up for the orderly and peaceful settlement of all labor disputes. They challenge the power of the Government to carry on the war.

"The continuance and spread of these strikes would have the same effect on the course of the war as a crippling defeat in the field.

"The production of coal must continue. Without coal our war industries cannot produce tanks, guns and ammunition for our armed forces. Without these weapons our sailors on the

high-seas, and our armies in the field, will be helpless against our enemies.

"I am sure that the men who work in the coal mines, whose sons and brothers are in the armed forces, do not want to retard the war effort to which they have contributed so loyally, and in which they with other Americans have so much at stake.

"Not as President -- not as Commander in Chief -- but as the friend of the men who work in the coal mines, I appeal to them to resume work immediately, and submit their case to the National War Labor Board for final determination.

"I have confidence in the patriotism of the miners, and I am sure that when they realize the effect that stopping work at this time will have upon our boys at the front, they will return to their jobs.

"The enemy will not wait while strikes and stoppages run their course. Therefore, if work at the mines is not resumed by ten o'clock Saturday morning, I shall use all the power vested in me as President and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy to protect the national interest and to prevent further interference with the successful prosecution of the war."

Q. To which we might say, "Hurray"?

Q. Mr. President, I think Mr. Lewis is at the Roosevelt Hotel and not at the Biltmore. He was at the Roosevelt night before last.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't kmow. Steve, ---

MR. EARLY: (interposing) The directions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- send it to both.

MR. EARLY: It has been.

THE PRESIDENT: It has been?

MR. EARLY: Well, the directions ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) All right.

MR. EARLY: (continuing) --- are that they make deliveries to both hotels.

Q. Mr. President, that went out early this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know -- about an hour ago.

MR. EARLY: About 10.30 -- I think so.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Well, that's all there is on that.

Then, ask the three press associations about the trip, if you want to find out anything about it. (laughter) Ask Bill Lawrence. He was there -- incog -- off the record -- and didn't see anybody but saw everything, and he can't use it. So I think you might tell them everything you saw, Bill. It's all right. You have nothing to do, while the press associations are busy filing copy. (more laughter)

I think the release on the trip will be at the close of this conference, so you all start even. Nobody has even a half an hour of beating the rest to it.

It was a good trip. I talked to the press associations yesterday about it. It was a continuation of what I told the other correspondents who were with me on the train as far as -- as Corpus Christi, on the way back from the Mexican trip.

There were a number of things that -- I tried to

simplify things, to point out the comparison -- they all asked me -- between this trip and the one last September. And I would say it really lay in the thought that last September the Army was having growing pains, and now they have got over the growing pains and are about grown up.

One thing that I didn't mention to the press associations yesterday, and that was to speak of the -- the women in industry. You remember that last fall I was greatly surprised at the large percentage of women in the aviation plants. Well, that is true of other plants that are turning out munitions. In the aviation plants at that time they got as high as around 30% of women. Today they are running between 30 and 50 (%) -- one plant had actually more women than men. And the new workers that are coming in all the time, in most of the plants, have a percentage of women running well above 50% -- as high as 60 and 65%, which of course will help tremendously in the -- in the manpower -- manpower and womanpower problem.

Then the various camps seem to have -- what shall I call it? -- shaken down into a normal procedure. Now, they are getting straightened out the problems -- when you start any new camp -- of housekeeping; that is to say, food and clothing, and all the necessary supplies to keep the very large number of men going in the camps. They are making large savings too, as for example, in -- in food, which was looked into by an Army -- special Army board about a month -- a month and a half ago; and the new regulations in effect will save a great many millions of dollars.

Let's see, what else? Doug, can you think of something?

Q. Mr. President, ---

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: (interposing) I think that covers it in generalities, sir.

Q. Mr. President, your statement that the Army is about grown up, does that indicate a cut in the number of men that you were going to put in the Army?

THE PRESIDENT: No, Jim (Wright).

Q. No change in that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. As far as we know now, we need them all.

Q. Mr. President, there have been London reports that the Prime Minister (Winston Churchill) has been in telephonic communication with you on the Russo-Polish thing. I wondered if there was anything to it?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't have any trans-Atlantic wire where I was.

Q. Would you care to make any comment on the Russo-Polish ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. I think you had better ask the State Department, because obviously I have been in very close touch with it all the way through, but not by telephone.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Short but sweet!

(laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #893
Executive Office of the President
May 4, 1943 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) There you are!

MR. GODWIN: Couldn't get around last time.

THE PRESIDENT: Didn't see you around Mexico.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to say a word of congratulation to the country.

I have just had news that the Red Cross Fund -- War Fund appeal has gone well over the top. They asked for 125 million, and they have had subscriptions for 138 million, with some localities still to be heard from. That is very substantially over the top.

I don't think I have got anything else.

Oh -- Washington, D. C., please note. Washington exceeded its goal by more than 26%. I am very proud of Washington, D. C. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's the way to do it.

Mr. President, are you -- are you satisfied with the way the coal business is going, with Mr. Ickes (Secretary of the Interior) and these various ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think I have any news on that at all.

Q. Is negotiation in the hands of the W.L.B. (War Labor Board), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, all you have to do is read

the law.

Q. What law, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: The Executive Order, and the law under which the whole thing is set up and works.

Q. You mean your Executive Order, ordering Mr. ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Originally -- originally, plus the laws of last October.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us something about Madame Chiang Kai-shek's visit here?

THE PRESIDENT: I only saw her last night at dinner. I hope she will stay until tomorrow.

Q. Are there any problems to take up about China?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Are there any problems to take up, or are they just discussions or something to be settled?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. Things come up about China every day in the week. Nothing special.

Q. That's what I wanted to know --nothing special.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Is there anything in connection with your talk with (Lieutenant) General (Joseph W.) Stilwell and (Major) General (Claire L.) Chennault?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Is Madame Chiang here to say goodbye, after her trip around the country?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is she here to say goodbye, after her trip

around the country?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know what the plans are for the future. I don't know whether she is going back immediately, or a little later. In other words, I don't know if this particular party is goodbye or not. (laughter) She is very welcome any time she can come down.

Q. Have you had any word at all, Mr. President, from John (L.) Lewis (President of the United Mine Workers of America) direct?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't.

Q. Not since your speech?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about that?

Q. Mr. President, when the House committee -- I mean the Senate committee reported that McKellar job bill to the Senate, they restored a provision in it putting the T.V.A. (Tennessee Valley Authority) under it. I wonder if you could say whether the T.V.A. is properly regarded as Senatorial patronage, or does the interstate character come into play there?

THE PRESIDENT: Where is the bill now?

Q. Before the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, don't you think it would be a bit improper for me to comment on it? It hasn't passed the House has it?

Q. It hasn't passed the Senate.

Q. It hasn't passed the Senate yet.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) That would be rather improper for me to comment on it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #894
Executive Office of the President
May 7, 1943 -- 11.10 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning, sir.

Q. Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning -- good morning.

(a full-page advertisement was shown the President -- Washington Post for May 7 -- Four Freedoms War Bond Show, Honoring the Soviet Union -- where the captions for the Earl Godwin and Martin Agronsky photographs had been reversed)

THE PRESIDENT: (looking at the picture of Mr. Agronsky captioned Earl Godwin) Gosh! -- he must be very ill. (laughter) (Mr. Agronsky is much thinner than Mr. Godwin)

Q. Had his face lifted.

THE PRESIDENT: He must be very ill.

MR. GODWIN: Changing my name on me.

Q. That's what a party can do for you.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's what a party can do for you -- that's right. (then looking at Mr. Godwin) Mr. Agronsky! (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: I have been up to that R Street house.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I want to say a word in commendation of the Treasury Department. The Secretary of the Treasury sent me this morning the latest figures on the last bond issue. They have completed the Second War Loan Drive with a total sales of Government securities of 18 billion, 300 million,

which is more than 5 billion over the goal that was set.

It is rather interesting to analyze those figures a little. More than 13 billion came from investors other than commercial banks, as compared with the original goal in that category of 8 billion; in other words, that subscription by investors other than commercial banks shows the largest increase. Also, the savings of the people that were invested -- in other words, the average individual, like you and me -- came to the extent of 3 billion dollars by direct purchases; and another three and a half (billion dollars) through the purchases by insurance companies and savings banks, which of course act in a very true sense as the repository of the savings of millions of people, through insurance premiums.

The -- the people participated to a much larger extent in the Second War Loan than in the First War Loan of last December. The figures I have given you show that the sales to individuals are almost double those of last December, which means that since what they call technically the "E" bonds have been issued by the Treasury for about two years, that over 10 billion dollars have been put into those savings bonds, meaning a total of -- and I think -- I think this figure is quite a significant one -- over 50 million Americans.

MR. GODWIN: The 10 billion dollars, you mean, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, 10 billions subscribed by 50 million Americans.

And another interesting thing is that people who today are at work or in the Armed Services -- which is about

60 million people -- five-sixths of them own one or more bonds.

And then the other thing is that, of course, this large over-subscription is excellent, because it -- it pushes further off the date for the Third -- originally it had been planned by the Secretary of the Treasury, because of actual needs, to start the Third War Loan sometime in July. And this means that it will be postponed until the end of September, or the beginning of October, which is a very grand job on the part of the -- first of the Treasury, and -- and secondly of the people of the United States.

I don't think there's anything else.

Somebody is sure to ask me the question about the second mission to Moscow. (laughter)

Mr. (Joseph E.) Davies is leaving, almost at once, on a mission to Moscow. He will not be gone very long -- coming right back. He is carrying with him a letter from me, of which he -- he himself does not know the contents. And I assume that he will -- after it is opened over there -- he will learn what is in it, and they may talk to him about it, and he will come back.

It is a special mission. It isn't -- it has nothing to do with a regular mission to Moscow.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And what is in it -- what is in the letter -- I will forestall somebody who is about to say something -- he doesn't know, and you don't know. And number three, your guesses are nearly always wrong in the

past. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) That ought to forestall quite a lot of trouble.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- do we understand you told him to whom the letter is addressed?

THE PRESIDENT: It is addressed to Mr. (Josef) Stalin. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: No doubt about that!

Q. Mr. President, do you expect him to bring a reply -- a definite reply when he returns, or will that come later?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know.

Q. (interjecting) Is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Aren't you assuming something?

Q. What do you hope?

THE PRESIDENT: Aren't you assuming something?

Q. No, I don't think so.

THE PRESIDENT: You are assuming that it calls for a reply.

Q. Most letters do -- as courtesy.

Q. Well, Mr. President, does it call for a reply?

THE PRESIDENT: What? You haven't seen it.

Q. No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Neither has anybody else.

Q. Surely you have seen it, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What was that?

Q. Surely you have seen it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and so has Grace (Tully). She wrote it out on the typewriter.

MR. GODWIN: It's a typed letter?

Q. Mr. President, is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is it written in English?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- Irish. (laughter)

I don't think I have anything else.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, under your (Executive) Order to Secretary (of the Interior Harold) Ickes, are the coal miners employees of the Government? If so, have they the right to strike against the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you've got two questions in there, Pete. The first is are they employees of the Government? I should say Yes on that. On the second, I would say that I have been in the Government for -- Oh -- a great many years, and I can't recollect any strike by Government employees against the Government.

Q. Mr. President, on this War Loan thing, the fact that that was over-subscribed to such a large extent, would that possibly make any difference in your Budget recommendations for a plan of enforced savings up to 16 billion dollars this year?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, offhand I would say Yes, that it does decrease the need very definitely on forced savings,

because it is coming along on the voluntary principle so awfully well. But, of course, neither you nor I know what Congress is going to do on any tax bill. So I -- I answer that Yes, that it does put off the need of forced savings, subject to further efforts on the Hill.

Q. Mr. President, does that change your request for 16 billion dollars from Congress? That is, in your Budget Message do you ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That -- that is additional money.

Q. Yes, but part of that was presumably to be reached by forced savings, which would reduce the total that Congress is supposed to provide in new tax legislation this year.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite get the drift.

Q. Well, in your Budget Message you recommended part taxes and forced savings to raise approximately 16 billion dollars in new revenue. Does this mean that the 16 billion dollars demanded from Congress, so to speak, has been reduced by this large subscription?

THE PRESIDENT: No. In other words, what -- what I have just said covers it. You have got a certain total that you have got to get into the Treasury, that is the real size of it; and that total hasn't changed, because the monthly expenditure by the Government in making things for the war is running pretty close to the estimates of last January totaled that we have to pay out -- running true to form. And we have got to get it.

Q. Would this reduce the need for increased taxes, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: No. It -- well, you can -- I don't know how you would put that -- I should -- I should say No. We are 5 billion -- what? -- 3 billion -- No, 5 billion better off on the savings end. But on the other hand, it is very desirable, because it pushes off two or three months the need of a Third Loan. That's about all.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I still think we need taxes -- additional taxes.

Q. Forced savings would have to come through -- largely through taxes, the instrument by which they would be obtained?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, these savings are not taxes, they are savings.

Q. Mr. President, to return to the coal situation, is it your plan that the Government continue operation of the mines until the new contract between the operators and the miners has been signed and peace is assured in the industry?

THE PRESIDENT: I never heard anybody suggest that as of the 7th of May, 1942 (1943), that we should stop running the mines.

Q. I said Government operation, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, can you say something about your talks with the President of Bolivia (Enrique Penaranda)?

THE PRESIDENT: We had a very satisfactory conference. And there is no question about it, that all through the Republics -- Latin American Republics, people are looking -- looking ahead.

One -- one phase of that, for example, relates to what I said down in Mexico, about the era of exploitation being over. I apologized to him on behalf of the thing that happened a great many years ago -- way back -- I don't know, what? -- '26 -- '27 -- when certain Americans went down to Bolivia and told them they needed a lot of money. Well, Bolivia had not realized that, up to that time; but these Americans were so -- such good salesmen that they persuaded Bolivia that they did need the money. And so we lent them some money on bonds at 8 percent. Also, about another 8 percent that went to the houses of issue. Bolivia only got 92 instead of a hundred on their bonds, and of course, obviously, were completely unable to repay either the 8 percent interest, or the -- or the principal.

And I apologized on behalf of my fellow citizens of that age -- rather an interesting era in our history -- and I told him that if I had anything to do with it again we would never lend money to anybody on that basis again.

Q. Is that Mr. Dillon (Dillon, Read and Company), Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I said they were Americans. Don't -- don't try to create a controversy. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there was news last night which seemed to indicate that the War Labor Board had cried

for help, or that it had -- to be specific -- had sent word to you through Mr. (James F.) Byrnes (Economic Stabilization Director) that it might like to deviate from the so called Little Steel formula. Has that reached you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. And I am inclined to think I would discount it, if I were you.

MR. GODWIN: It was very definitely stated.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I would discount it.

Q. Mr. President, Wendell Willkie has written a book ("One World") about that trip you sent him on. Have you had a chance to read it?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have -- I have read several reviews. I haven't read the book itself. I have got it to read.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #895
Executive Office of the President
May 11, 1943 -- 4.15 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There are two things that I have done in the past few days to make it easier for the Press and other people, so that they won't get into unnecessary controversy over the English language.

One is the question of ship tonnage.

Well, there's all sorts of controversy about the figures of ship tonnage built, being built, and being sunk, and so forth; and that was because of the fact that I think there are five different kinds of ship tonnage -- measurements of a ship -- which you can measure five different ways, and get a different number of tons out of each method.

So I have asked the Navy and the Shipping Board to try to arrive at a -- a simplified word that will be uniform for all ships and used by everybody; and incidentally try and take it up with the British too, to see if they won't agree to some simplified terminology on what the tonnage of a ship is.

And of course, for most of our purposes, and in carrying things around the world, is to find out how many -- what the -- what the cargo-carrying capacity of the ship is in terms of weight.

Now somebody will say the old gag: if you fill a ship full of feathers right up -- carry a deck-load of feathers -- it won't weigh as much as eight or ten feet of pig-iron in the

bottom of a ship. But cargo averages itself up, and therefore it is perfectly logical to use what I have described -- what might be called the average capacity of tons per carrying cargo. Well, that is -- that is working. I hope we will get something out of it.

The other thing related to airplanes.

And I have -- I have told you a number of times before, it isn't fair to measure airplanes by the number of airplanes made, because since the war began we have increased the average weight of practically all types of airplanes. And the real -- I suppose the real measure is the number of hours of labor that go into each plane, but that gets you into fantastic figures, that I have always objected to -- manhours.

And so they worked this thing out for me, in relation to these new Army estimates, in terms of the weight of planes. And part of it gets into the realm of being confidential, but I suppose these figures will give you an idea of what the production of this country has been in terms of the weight of airplanes.

In 1941 we turned out 87 million pounds.

In 1942 we turned out 291 million pounds. Of course, you can simplify that, by -- by saying that these figures are in terms of millions of pounds.

87 -- next, 291 -- and this year (1943) we expect to turn out 911 million pounds.

And our estimates for 1944 -- of course, we haven't finally determined all the different -- the numbers of each

type, or even the final types themselves, in some cases -- one billion, 417 million pounds.

Well, put it the other way, it goes from 87 to 291 to 911 and to 1417 (million pounds). Well, that -- that, I think, is a pretty good -- pretty good way of showing how we have increased airplane production in this country.

MR. EARLY: Isn't that for the Army only, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- No. No -- it's everything.

Of course, with that is the fact that we are not only making this tremendous additional production in terms of millions of pounds. Also, we are greatly increasing the numbers of airplanes that are being delivered.

I -- I think I am right in saying that the numbers being produced are greater than all the other nations of the world combined.

And I think I am right also in saying that the size of the airplanes, that is to say, the number of pounds per ship, is greater than that of any other nation.

Of course, another tendency has been the fact that in our earlier building, more emphasis was placed on the need for defensive fighters; that is to say, the small defense plane, and the light bomber, and the dive bomber. Today, the emphasis has been shifted, so that we are building relatively more four-engine heavy bombers, two-engine heavy bombers, and the long-range fighters, and the large cargo planes.

In other words -- well, the thought behind our program is to more and more to go on the offensive.

The four-engine bombers in production are about six months ahead of the former schedule; that means last December on that type. And the modern, four-engine bomber weighs almost ten times as much as the single-engine fighter.

I think that's all I have got.

Q. Mr. President, the Prime Minister of Canada (W. L. Mackenzie King) told Parliament that Canada, the United States and Great Britain were negotiating a secret protocol with Russia, on supplies for next year. Is there any light you could throw on that? Is it a continuation of the old protocol?

THE PRESIDENT: There is nothing secret about it, except the fact that we are now operating under the second protocol; and, of course, we expect a third one to come along. Of course, the -- the details of it are secret. There is nothing secret about the fact that we have -- that we are operating on the second of those protocols. But it's not -- it's not quite the right -- right way of putting it, that it's a -- a secret protocol. It isn't a secret protocol. The military details are secret.

Q. When did the second one go into effect?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it was -- well, the next one is due the first of July, and the last one -----. Pete (Brandt), you had -- you had better find out from the State Department. Either last January or last July. I don't know which.

Q. Mr. President, is there any indication you can give us as to the Administration's attitude toward the Senate's bill for a separate Administrator of Civilian Supply?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, the Senate takes up the tax bill tomorrow. Randolph Paul (of the Treasury Department) testified before the Finance Committee last week that the Ruml-Carlson bill in its various versions would result in a redistribution of the tax load from the higher brackets -- income brackets to the lower brackets. Do you agree with that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you know what I have said so often about the details of tax bills: I think that we should be kind to the other correspondents here, and not discuss it. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports that there might be some announcement impending from Lisbon, relative to an exchange which might facilitate the conduct of the sea war in the Atlantic?

THE PRESIDENT: That what? Exchange?

Q. Exchange of notes relating to facilitating our conduct of the war in the -- against the submarines?

THE PRESIDENT: That sounds like the -- conglomerate is a nice word -- population of Lisbon at the present time. (laughter)

Q. Can you say anything, Mr. President, about the existing difficulties of the War Labor Board with the "hold the line" (Executive) Order?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have talked with Mr. Ickes about it today, and I have talked to Mr. Byrnes about it. I

expect to see Mr. (William H.) Davis (Chairman of the War Labor Board) and some of the others. I don't think there's any news on it.

Q. Mr. President, the impression seems to prevail that you are going to have a visitor very shortly. Can you say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I can say this: you have been here long enough to know that a question of that kind is -- is barred by the voluntary newspaper censorship which has prevailed ever since we got into the war.

Q. Yes.

Q. Is he that important, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is he that important?

THE PRESIDENT: Just one of those polite admonitions.

Q. No, I mean is your visitor that important?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Is your visitor that important?

THE PRESIDENT: No -- it applies at all times.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

(laughter)

(newspapermen were filing out)

Q. Mr. President, we didn't get the opportunity to ask you, was Ickes' visit (today) connected with the coal situation?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Was Ickes' visit connected with the coal situation?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, and a lot of other things. Oh, sure.

Q. Nothing new on that today?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Can't say.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #896
Executive Office of the President
May 14, 1943 -- 11.05 A.M., E.W.T.

VOICES: Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have got very little today. There are two releases -- which Steve (Early) will give you -- one in regard to the conversations with the President of Bolivia on his trip here, which has proved very successful; and the other one is an Executive Order for the Director of Transportation -- Defense Transportation to take over the American Railroad Company of Puerto Rico. They have a dispute down there, and -- which looks like the best thing to do is just for him to take over the railroad, as he has in one or two other cases.

Outside of that, there is practically nothing.

I was going to suggest to all of you that we go -- put the lid on between now and Monday morning. The Prime Minister (Winston Churchill) and I will continue conversations in the meantime, and I think there will be nothing of importance in the next two days.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, have you anything to say that would help you -- or anybody else -- with respect to your conversations with the Prime Minister on any of these things that are going on now?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. We are in the conferring stage. There isn't any -- any news yet, because

we are still conferring. And I don't believe there will be anything until the visit is practically over.

I thought -- I haven't even talked to the Prime Minister about it -- I thought it would be awfully nice if, before he leaves, he would come and join one of our Press Conferences next week.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) Yes, sir!

Q. Mr. President, have plans been made yet for the sending of the latest war prisoners to this country, or to any other country -- the African prisoners?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. That is one of the things we are conferring about, but of course it is largely a logistical matter. In other words, transportation -- where to go, and how to do it. There are an awful lot of them.

Q. There is some discussion, Mr. President, of using prisoners for farm labor. Do you have any thoughts on that?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose first -- we had better take up the question first of getting them out of Africa. I don't believe that very many of them -- there might be a good many thousands that remain in Africa. That runs into things like the -- the food problem, how to feed them; and the security problem, of course, as well. So I don't think there will be anything about what they have -- they will do manually, when they are safely in the prisoners' camp -- until we get them safely into the prisoners' camp.

Q. Mr. President, it seems to be a problem of ballast on the ships coming home. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) You know, I don't think after all, human beings -- I don't think we should call them ballast. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Well, it's the problem of feeding them in Africa and the problem of getting them ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Getting them home, Yes.

MR. GODWIN: Is it a balance between those two? Is it easier to feed them than to take them home ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) That is one of the things we are talking about.

Q. Aren't there any cooks among them, Mr. President? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. No cooks?

THE PRESIDENT: You mean chefs. (more laughter)

Q. Chefs.

THE PRESIDENT: Chefs.

Q. Mr. President, quite a large number will be brought to this country?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I assume so.

Q. To any other country will they be sent?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think there are a good many ---

Q. (adding) South America?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- parts of the world where they might fit in.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us on the Indian question, after your conference with Ambassador (William) Phillips?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so. I don't think I have any news on it.

Q. Is he returning to India, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: To what?

Q. Is he going back to India -- Mr. Phillips?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I suppose so.

Q. Supposing?

THE PRESIDENT: I suppose so.

Q. Mr. President, is there any particular reason why it hasn't been announced what members of our staffs are participating in these joint conferences?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know it hadn't been, because we can call on any of them -- because they are right here. You know their names. Make up your own list. Ask them if it's a good guess.

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Mr. President, on the coal situation, Secretary Ickes said at his Press Conference yesterday that he thought the next move was up to the Government. Can you tell us what -- who -- when -- where -- how?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Bill, I think I would have to have a transcript of what he said, before I commented on it.

Q. Mr. President, do you know of any reason why the Department of Justice doesn't ask for the indictment of Congressman (E. E.) Cox (Democrat of Georgia)?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. He (Attorney General Francis Biddle) has had the case over a year now.

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know.

Q. Then there is no bar, so far as the White House is concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: The White House knows nothing about it at the present time. I did, sometime ago; but I haven't followed it lately.

Q. Mr. President, a few days ago the New York Times carried a story from Pittsburgh, saying the 25 miners who went back on the Monday you asked them to go back to work were being fined five dollars apiece for not waiting until Tuesday, when Mr. (John L.) Lewis asked them to go back to work.

THE PRESIDENT: I read about it, and I asked Mr. Ickes to look into it; and I haven't heard anything more.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, to get back to this prisoner question, it seems to me there's an interesting distinction made, either unofficially or officially, between the Italian prisoners and German prisoners, as to what they might do, or whether they would be preferred in bringing them back here or not. Is there any justification for that, so far as you know?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I don't believe there's anything in that. Of course, what you might have in mind was the -- the safety factor involved, in putting the Italian prisoners in with the German prisoners. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, the O.W.I. (Office of War Information) released the text of some Japanese broadcast saying that we had attacked Attu Island (in the Aleutians); that is presumably land forces. Is there anything that can be said on that in the way ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't think so. I didn't know they had released anything.

Q. I beg your pardon?

THE PRESIDENT: I didn't know O.W.I. had released anything.

Q. They have.

Mr. President, there is a story also -- from London -- to the effect that an agreement has been reached among the Allies -- definite agreement, it says -- that when we re-conquer a country, our military leaders will deal only with the conquered military leaders -- no politicians. Can you say whether such an agreement has been reached?

THE PRESIDENT: I should say any generality of that kind is untrue, because it's a generality. Each country depends on itself, on its conditions. Well, let's take a very simple example. When we go into Norway and Norway is restored, you have got a perfectly good Norwegian government with a Norwegian king, which proves the falsity of the general assertion.

Q. What about the situation in Italy, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Ah! -- we had better not talk about that.

(laughter)

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #897
Executive Office of the President
May 18, 1943 -- 4.10 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have anything of any importance.

I have just had -- in the past hour -- a very satisfactory conference with the Duke of Windsor. And as you probably know, we are bringing a large number -- several thousand -- of laborers from the Bahamas, and others from Jamaica, to help out the farm labor this summer and autumn. And I think it's progressing very well.

The talks of the Prime Minister are going along very satisfactorily. They are not finished yet.

I think that's about all.

Q. Is the Prime Minister going to be subjected to the tender mercies of a Press Conference, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I think so. He doesn't worry about it any more than I do. (laughter)

Q. Would Friday be a good guess, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have no idea about it.

Q. Mr. President, this morning Secretary Knox gave us very sudden and very interesting information on Attu (in the Aleutians). Do you have anything to add to that, at this time?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. I saw the

dispatches this morning, about ten o'clock. I haven't seen any more than that.

Q. Mr. President, some of us have been investigating the figures relating to our production of atabrine, which is an anti-malarial and synthetic substitute for quinine. And in the course of our delving, we found that production seems to be almost woefully inadequate, and that the production figures are going to fall even twenty to twenty-five percent short of the goal set for the end of this year. Do you know what measures are being taken to increase production of this anti-malarial ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No. No. I would like to know -- I would like to know. I haven't heard of any Army figures. I talked to the Surgeon General of the Navy, but that was -- Oh, what? -- a month to a month and a half ago. And there we seemed to have plenty of quinine -- or qui-neen, whatever you call it -- and atabrine. It wasn't an alarming situation, in regard to the Navy. And I would like to check on the Army.

Q. And for Lend-Lease, and so forth?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Q. Mr. President, has Prime Minister Mackenzie King (of Canada) joined the conferences yet?

THE PRESIDENT: No. He -- I understand that he just got into town this afternoon, and he is coming to the White House in the morning, to spend the night.

Q. Mr. President, Senator (Albert B.) Chandler of Kentucky made a speech in the Senate yesterday, asking that

the United -- United States concentrate its efforts against the Japanese, and fight a holding war in Europe. Would you care to comment on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am afraid I am too familiar with the figures to comment on it.

Q. Mr. President, the House seems to have rejected the Ruml Plan again.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Have they?

Q. (continuing) Have you any -- could you tell us, sir, which if any of the various proposals that are up there in Congress would suit your ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) My dear fellow, you haven't read what I said to them.

Q. I read all that was printed about it, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: What -- if you will read the letter I sent up, that answers the question that I am not drawing tax legislation.

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Mr. President, have you any dispatches, secret or otherwise, on the Hot Springs front? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No. Bill, that's very well put. That's all right.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, was your answer to that question about Senator Chandler's speech, that you were too familiar with the figures to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) To comment.

MR. GODWIN: Is that what you said?

Q. Mr. President, do you have any comment at all on some of the reports that the restrictions on the press coverage at Hot Springs constitute restrictions on freedom of the press?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had anything, except the suggestion from -- he is not a member of The White House Correspondents' Association, but he is a very reputable and experienced newspaperman. He intimated to me that he thought it would be awfully nice if we could have in the Cabinet Room there -- (indicating) -- a nice little tier of benches put up so that there would always be twenty or thirty of the press in attendance at Cabinet meetings.

And I -- going him one better -- I suggested, as I see -- Oh, ten or fifteen people in here every day -- all kinds -- Government, civilian, and otherwise -- Army and Navy -- and we would, right in the back of the room -- (indicating) -- have another little tier of benches put up, so that they would all be present, you see, when ---

Q. (interposing) What's wrong with that? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) A good idea. I'm all for it.

Q. When may we expect that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: You will be asking to come in next to watch me take my bath. (more laughter) After all, there are certain limits!

Q. That wasn't Mr. Davis?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. That wasn't Mr. (Elmer?) Davis?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Not Davis.

Q. Mr. President, do you support the position of the War Labor Board in the coal case, that collective bargaining cannot proceed unless Mr. (John L.) Lewis comes before it?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that we would have to go into everything that was said. A very difficult thing to cover with a Yes or No answer. You would have to get the original phraseology, and the things that led up to it, and the things that succeeded it. It isn't as easy as that.

Q. Mr. President, have you appointed a new Chairman of the Committee on Fair Employment Practices?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think something is going to happen, though. Very soon. It was to have happened today, but was unavoidably delayed.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us what you talked to Dan Tobin about, both Friday and today?

THE PRESIDENT: About what?

Q. Can you tell us what you talked to Dan Tobin about, both Friday and today?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, you know old Dan. We always talk about the weather. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, I didn't understand you a moment ago to say that the Prime Minister met the Duke of Windsor?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I did.

Q. He did?

Q. The Prime Minister did not meet him.

THE PRESIDENT: The Prime Minister -- I don't know,

this is society column -- (laughter) -- the Prime Minister lunched up at the British Embassy. The Duke and Duchess were there, I think. And afterwards, the Prime Minister brought the Duke of Windsor down, and the Duke and I talked for about an hour; and we would be talking longer if I hadn't noticed that it was four o'clock.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Jim Mead (of New York) made the suggestion the other day that there might be a committee -- something like the Baruch committee that reported to you on rubber -- to discover what might be done between the Government and sports, so far as providing entertainment for the soldiers abroad and on the home front are concerned.

THE PRESIDENT: Sports?

Q. Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we have ---

Q. (interposing) (Secretary M. H.) McIntyre was up at the meeting that Senator Mead had. Do you have anything on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't got anything, except the fact that we have been seriously considering the questions in a very large number of letters that come in from the proponents of the many kinds of sports, asking what the White House thinks about this, and shall we have night games, and shall we have this sport that takes a good deal of transportation to get to, and so forth.

And we have considered putting in a little committee of three people who, say, know a good deal about all kinds

of sports, to try to help those who have doubts in their minds as to whether organized athletics of all kinds should go on or not. Well, we haven't -- we haven't got to a final decision on it, but I think that we will appoint three people, without power -- merely to recommend. People love to have somewhere to go.

Q. Do you know whom you are going to appoint, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Do you know whom you are going to appoint, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Mr. President, you talked with Mayor (Edward J.) Kelly the other day, or he talked with you about the diversion difficulties about Chicago. Have you had any report of any sort on that yet?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't. I sent it to -- I think the Army Engineers. I have got no answer yet. But -- South Chicago, wasn't it?

Q. Yes, sir.

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: I covered a lot of ground today!

Q. Certainly did.

(Notebook PC-XIV - Page 32 - JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #898
Executive Office of the President
May 21, 1943 -- 10.50 A.M., E.W.T.

(the President had a new work-basket of wood on his desk)

Q. I see you have a new work-basket.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes -- carved at the White House.

Q. That can stand a lot of overflow.

THE PRESIDENT: What? Yes, that can stand a lot of overflow.

MR. GODWIN: Looks like a crib.

Q. (to Mr. Early) Nice new basket, isn't it, Steve?

MR. EARLY: Yes, that's nice.

Q. The sides won't scratch.

MR. EARLY: A double-decker.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Earl Godwin) Nothing very exciting ---

MR. DONALDSON: (interposing) All in.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- today.

You remember last year on Maritime Day, which this year falls on tomorrow, we devoted most of the celebration in the country -- and statements -- to the men and women in the nation's shipyards. And Steve (Early) will have for you when you go out another statement as of this year -- paying special tribute to the men this year who sail the ships. Last year it was the people who build the ships.

I think I might -- it isn't in the -- in the

statement of Steve's -- I think we ought to call attention to the fact that on the whole our Maritime construction work is ahead of schedule -- going along extremely well.

And we are graduating slowly from the Liberty Ship, which is our first type, into a better and faster ship that we call the Victory Ship.

The construction program, I should say, is not only up to date, but -- because of the fact that we raised our sights and provided for a greater tonnage -- it is a good deal ahead of what we expected the total tonnage production to be a year ago.

This statement shows that this year we are devoting the celebration of Maritime -- National Maritime Day in special tribute to the men who sail the ships, showing our everlasting gratitude as a people to the -- not merely to the men on the battle front but also to the people who get the things to the battle front and enable the war to go on at top speed.

The -- the -- well, the thing explains itself. On the whole, we are ahead and -- and getting ahead on our construction program, because we have to -- while our tonnage is infinitely larger than last year, and has exceeded the losses very greatly, especially in the last six months, we have to remember that with every additional military or naval operation it requires additional tonnage, the -- the maintenance of the -- of the troops in Africa, not merely the original landing and taking of the first supplies, for example. Same thing in the Southwest Pacific, and Alaska. But a larger number of ships have to be provided, in order to maintain the ring which is slowly but

surely being closed around the Axis powers.

I think Steve has the message, which is mimeographed. And it's a special -- going to celebrate it in special tribute tomorrow to the men who -- of the Merchant Marine who sail these ships.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, for us landlubbers there's always a -- a confusion about tonnage. Is this the carrying capacity this time? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: They are working on it -- I told you that. We still haven't got a -- a uniform figure. In fact, there are no figures in this (release) at all.

Q. Mr. President, you have had a number of recent conferences with Dr. (T. V.) Soong. Is there anything you can tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. There isn't any particular news, one way or another.

Q. I wondered if there was anything special you had up between you?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I suppose the -- the principal thing relates to getting war materials of all kinds into China.

Q. Did you say more materials?

THE PRESIDENT: War materials -- and medical things -- things of that kind. That is going along pretty well.

Q. Mr. President, we got off the ships a little too quick for me. Would you elaborate a little on the transition to the Victory Ship?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you can say that -- of

course, the -- the Liberty Ship, the first one that was designed, was the kind of thing that we could build quickly in the initial stages of stepping up the shipbuilding program in this country many hundred percent. I can't give you the exact figure, but you can work that out very easily by seeing what all the merchant companies were building, let us say three years ago, and what we are building today -- it's a very enormous increase. Well, the Liberty Ship was an efficient design both from the point of view of hull and machinery -- especially machinery -- and the steel production, the easiest thing to do first.

One trouble with the Victory Ship -- with the Liberty Ship was that in time of peace it was pretty slow. And what we have been trying in the last six months, in turning to the Victory Ship, is to get a ship which would last for commerce all through the years during its whole life. And the Victory Ship that we are gradually substituting in large part for the Liberty Ship is a much better ship, especially so far as speed is concerned, for all world commerce, probably, in the future will be carried -- through competition -- by faster ships than in the past.

Q. Does that mean, Mr. President, that the Liberty Ships will be discontinued eventually?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I don't believe entirely, because there are some yards that are primarily fitted for the -- for the Liberty Ship. That will be an evolutionary process, but where we can put in a faster ship we are going to do it.

Q. Are some of the Victory Ships in use now?

THE PRESIDENT: Are they what?

Q. Are they in use?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I couldn't tell you. Better ask Jerry Land.

Q. Well, Mr. President, that's the reason I asked the original question. I understood that although they had actually allotted contracts for them, they hadn't yet decided on the design.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, Yes. That's all done.

Q. That's -- that's done?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. The only question was on two different types of engine, and that has been worked out.

Q. That has been worked out?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, now that some other people beside yourself and Grace Tully know about the contents of the letter you sent abroad, is there anything further that can be said on that score today?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet. All I have read is in the papers this morning.

Q. Mr. President, a dispatch just came in saying that the letter was evidently a great success, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Good.

Q. (continuing) --- and I wondered whether it was due to the contents or to the postman (Joseph E. Davies)? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I hope I got a perfect combination

of the two.

Q. Mr. President, the Vichy radio announced that the Japanese were beginning to evacuate Attu. Do you have any last-minute information on that for us?

THE PRESIDENT: There was nothing last night, and I -- I haven't heard. I haven't seen the dispatches this morning.

Q. Mr. President, would you care to comment on the death of the Japanese admiral (Isoroku Yamamoto), who forecast he would write the peace in the White House?

THE PRESIDENT: He's dead?

Q. The Japanese radio announced it.

Q. Yamamoto.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's good!

Q. Killed in action while directing operations in an airplane.

THE PRESIDENT: Gosh! (loud laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) In quotes!

Q. Can -- may we quote that, sir?

Q. Can we quote that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. (more laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, there was a Japanese -- or Chinese -- military spokesman -- it is quoted from over there -- saying that a large force of Japanese -- Japanese, well equipped, are marching toward Chungking, about 186 miles away. Do you know anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Did it say from what direction?

MR. GODWIN: Marching westward, that was one ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, it's all westward.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) The Japanese in the north would be marching ---

MR. GODWIN: (interposing) The only thing that I had was 186 miles from Chungking.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) That's about right.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) There was no authority ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- except some unknown spokesman.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the Japanese in the northeast of Chungking are around 200 miles away, and in the southeast of Chungking they are about 200 miles away, and due east down the river -- Hankow -- Ichang -- they are about 200 miles away.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) 186 miles ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Not much difference.

MR. GODWIN: Not very significant.

Q. Mr. President, is there anything you can tell us about the visit of Prime Minister Mackenzie King (of Canada) here?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so. He is just -- just down here on the same -- same thing that everybody else is here -- furtherance of the war. I am seeing him again this morning.

Q. Mr. President, has your opinion of armchair strategists improved lately?

THE PRESIDENT: No. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, is anything ---

Q. (interposing) Will you elaborate on that?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Would you care to elaborate?

THE PRESIDENT: No, because I would get personal, and I don't like to do that.

Q. Mr. President, there was one line in the Prime Minister's speech (Churchill's) the other day that struck me as new, and that was that we have a majority of United States forces in the Pacific.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's true.

Q. That is Army as well as Navy?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. I should say very definitely true as to the Army and Navy, and very close to being equal numbers on the air end, so that on the Army, Navy and Air, it is absolutely true that the large majority of our forces are in the Pacific.

Q. Mr. President, back to Dr. Soong, we have noticed that he has been in here, particularly since Prime Minister Churchill arrived. Could you say if your talks with the Prime Minister concerned something about China?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, sure. We talked about China. It isn't the only place we have been talking about.

Q. Mr. President, when you referred to the majority of our forces, you were speaking then of a majority of these forces which are outside the continental United States?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

MR. GODWIN: (aside) How about it?

Q. Mr. President, any sort of progress report you can give us on your talks with the Prime Minister (Churchill)?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I suppose the best way to put it is this: that, so far, most of the work has been done by the Combined Staffs. And they have been at it, and we expect to get some preliminary recommendations from the Combined Staffs -- you might call them tentative recommendations -- probably in tonight's meeting. Then those will be gone over -- and I might say the Combined Staffs have been getting along extremely well -- and then over the weekend we will be going over them, and take up the preliminary recommendations next week and iron out any kinks that are in them and make them final.

Q. Mr. President, has any consideration been given to the political future of Italy?

MR. GODWIN: (aside) What?

THE PRESIDENT: Unconditional surrender. I think that ---

Q. (interposing) Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- speaks for itself.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. GODWIN: Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: Italy.

MR. GODWIN: He asked about Italy?

THE PRESIDENT: Unconditional surrender.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #899
Executive Office of the President
May 25, 1943 -- 4.03 P.M., E.W.T.

(this is the joint Press Conference of the President and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain)

THE PRESIDENT: (to the Prime Minister) If you don't mind, I will make these three little announcements first.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Yes.

(a long wait here as newspapermen continue to file in)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I think, if our old-time friend will pardon me for about five minutes or less, I will give you one or two things that really ought to be said.

The first relates to this question of the floods in the Middle West, which of course have been very serious this year, but not nearly so bad as one or two other floods we have had in the last ten years.

The Red Cross is in general charge, as you know, and is doing wonderful work in distributing clothing and food, and medicine and shelter.

The Army is taking care of the physical safety. And the -- and the spread of the flood has employed thus far

38 thousand troops, which is a task force bigger than two divisions, and is daily throwing more troops into the job. It is doing a great deal of dirt-moving, using amphibious Jeeps -- for the first time, I think, that they have ever been used for this particular purpose -- assault boats, motorized pontons -- I suppose that's what we used to call pontoons -- and numerous other pieces of floating equipment in the fight to protect the levees, the war plants and other installations, and also to evacuate civilians.

Then -- and incidentally, it might be said that these activities are providing tactical training that no simulated conditions could provide -- a total of more than 50 thousand people have been moved, evacuated primarily by troops alone, with additional thousands being evacuated by the Coast Guard, the Red Cross itself, and other agencies.

About -- the Army estimates that about 25 thousand evacuated persons that they have rescued from dangerous points in the flood area would probably have been lost if we hadn't got on the job immediately. The troops represent, of course, every section of the nation. They are working a strenuous 12-hour shift, and want to work more.

Right in that line, you probably will wonder whether we are going to lose a certain amount of our food supplies. And I think that obviously there will be a certain proportion of food supplies destroyed by the flood, although being fairly early in the year many of the -- much of the damage can be repaired through replanting. The -- part of the farm equipment will

have been lost, and they are making preparations for the salvage of it, repair of it, and removing the rust.

Then, some of the livestock has been drowned -- not a very large number, because most of the livestock they have been able to drive to higher land, temporary refuges on the -- on the higher ground.

The War Food Administration -- Mr. Chester Davis -- has a committee which is meeting in St. Louis, consisting of Chairman Mr. P. V. Kepner -- K-E-P-N-E-R -- of the Extension Service, and Clifford Townsend of the Food Administration Officer -- Office. They are meeting in St. Louis with the Governors and Commissioners of Agriculture in the -- in the six States most seriously affected. The Extension Directors of all those States, the Chairmen of the State War Boards, the Farm Security regional representatives from places like Indianapolis and Little Rock, and members of the Red Cross, will all be here -- at that place, and coordinate the work of obtaining the seed and the materials and labor, and the machinery essential to repairing the -- the crop production lost through flood.

And tying in with that is the third item, a letter from Mr. Donald Nelson, telling me that they have -- the W.P.B. (War Production Board) has allotted steel for an additional 18 thousand, 690 harvesting machines, and that those will -- we believe that the overall total of 55 thousand harvesting machines will be delivered in time for the 1943 harvest.

Within the next week we will have a new order ready for farm machinery and equipment recommended by the Food

Administrator, to be made available for the 1944 season; in other words, next spring's planting. This order will allow the manufacturers to make about 80 percent of their 1940 production of new equipment. And all of this in the farm machinery program has been given a Double-A-2 rating, and has had the steel allotted to it by directive.

The -- well, they have had a number of meetings. Senator (Scott W.) Lucas (Democrat of Illinois) is satisfied, because he was the chief person who was pushing the production of farm machinery; and he expresses himself as being satisfied with what we are doing -- to make every effort to see to it that the farmers have the necessary machinery to put in and harvest this crop, and the planting of next year's crop.

Now that's all that I have.

And at this point I think I had better go off the record, and turn the meeting over to my distinguished colleague.

We are awfully glad to have Mr. Churchill back here. I don't have -- I don't have to tell him that. All he has to do is to read the papers, and look into the faces of any American. He is very welcome.

I don't think we have very much to tell you, except that we are making exceedingly good progress, and taking up a -- a matter which I spoke of the other day, the total war -- the global war, which considering the -- the size of our problems, these discussions have been done in practically record time.

And so I am going to turn the meeting over to Mr. Churchill, and I -- I think that he will be willing to answer

almost -- with stress on the almost -- any question. (laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, in Australia there is a very great fear as to the Japanese threat in that area. What is your feeling about the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER: The threat is certainly, in our opinion, less serious than it was when I saw you last in this room (December 23, 1941).

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, what can you tell us generally about the plans for the future, probably beginning with Europe?

THE PRIME MINISTER: A very expansive topic, -- (laughter) ---

Q. (interjecting) Yes, sir.

Q. (aside) Expansive?

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) --- and one which leads very early to difficult country; but our plans for the future are to wage this war until unconditional surrender is procured from all those who have molested us, and -- and this applies equally to Asia and to Europe. It used to apply to -- quite recently -- to Africa.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that word "molestation," or "molesting" is one of the best examples of your habitual under-statement that I know. (laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, could you say anything about how well satisfied you are with the way things are going on the fighting fronts?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I am very much more satisfied than I was when I was here last (June 18, 1942). (laughter)

It was within this -- this -- not in this room -- that the President handed me the telegram of the surrender of Tobruk. And as I have mentioned to him, I don't think there was anybody -- any Englishman in the United States so unhappy, as I was that day, since Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga.

(loud laughter)

But the situation is very different now. The -- the plans which were made then in June, and before June, and the movements of troops which were set in motion before June last, enabled us to alter the balance of the affairs in Africa entirely. And we opened our offensive in Alamein on the 23rd of October. The United States and British descent upon North Africa began on the eighth of November, and since then we have already had a very great measure of -- of success, culminating in decisive victory of proportions equal to any of the great victories that have been -- that have been won: complete obliteration of the enemy.

And too, while this has been going on, our Russian Ally who this time last year was subject to very -- well, who in June last year was subject to the beginning of a very heavy and possibly deadly offensive by the Germans, and it seemed that they might well lose the Caucasus, has gained another series of successes, culminating in Stalingrad.

And Hitler has been struck with two -- two immense blows, tremendous shattering blows: in Tunisia, and at Stalingrad. And from every point of view we must regard the last ten or eleven months as examples of highly successful war -- a

perfectly indisputable turning of the tide.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, on this question of Russia. After you spoke to Congress, Senator (Albert B.) Chandler (Democrat of Kentucky), who is from my State, issued a statement saying that while you had promised Great Britain would stay to fight Japan to the end, you could not promise Russia would. Of course, there are reasons for this, but do you care to say anything? In your opinion of Russia's self-interest, would it lead her to fight Japan after the European war?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Oh well, it's one of those oversights that I haven't been placed in the position to give directions to Russia, as he mentions. (laughter)

And I have this feeling, that those people have been doing such a tremendous job facing this enormous mass -- they have done what nobody else was in a position to do: torn a large part of the guts out of the German army. And they have suffered very grievous losses. They are battling with, as I said to the Congress, 190 German divisions -- not up to strength, of course -- and 28 satellite divisions from the different countries that Hitler gathered around him in his attack on Russia. They are bearing all that weight, and I certainly have not felt that I ought to suggest to my government asking more of them.

But their strength may grow as time goes on. They must know that Japan has watched them with a purely opportunist eye. But it isn't for me at all to make any suggestions to them at all.

They have been grand Allies; and of course they have shown it in heroic fashion. They have struck blows that no one else could strike, and they have endured losses that no one power has ever been capable of enduring, and continuing an effective and even a growing factor in the field.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, what do you think of the dissolution of the Comintern?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, I like it -- (laughter) -- I like it.

Q. To get back to Russia, sir, are you confident that the Russians will be able to hold out this year, as they have in past years?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I certainly think that they have a much better prospect of holding out this year than they had the previous time. Indeed, I must express my full confidence that they will hurl back any attack which is made upon them.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, in the light of developments since your speech to Congress, would you care to make any general statement concerning the experiment of bombing Germany into submission?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, I haven't had very much time to go on with the experiment since I spoke to Congress. (laughter)

We have had the heaviest raid we have ever had, the -- the raid on Dortmund (Germany), where 2 thousand tons were cast down upon them with, I believe, highly satisfactory results.

And also, it has been an extremely good week for the

United States air forces in Great Britain -- in the United Kingdom. They -- they made, I think, four heavy daylight attacks, which are judged to be extremely successful. Precision bombing in the daylight, of course, in proportion to the weight of bombs dropped, produces a more decisive effect -- more than the night bombing, because it goes to more specific targets precise and accurate.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, I think that's something that hasn't been brought out, and that is that the night bombing over Europe carries more weight of explosives; but of course being night-time the precision of the actual bombing can't be so great as the day bombing, which carries less explosives but with more precision because it's daylight. On the whole, the combination of the two, day and night, is achieving a more and more satisfactory result.

THE PRIME MINISTER: It's like running a twenty-four hour service. (laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, have you any comment to make upon relations between General (Henri Honore) Giraud and General (Charles) De Gaulle?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, I have -- I am very glad to see that apparently it's improved, and that there is to be a meeting, judging only from what I read in the -- in the organs which you gentlemen sustain -- (laughter) -- and serve.

But certainly it is -- it will be very satisfactory if all this backchat comes to an end, and Frenchmen who are fighting to relieve and liberate their country get together and

look forward to the future instead of backward on the past, and think of the great duty they owe to France rather than to any factional interest.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. Prime Minister, the last time you spoke to us you used a term that I have remembered, because you said that you were not going to rely on an internal collapse of Germany, rather would you rely on an external knockout, at that time. Well, since then you have worked on Germany and the Occupied countries a good deal, and there are constantly recurring evidences that the German people may be getting close to "had enough." We still are working for this knockout, but have you any further light on that for us -- on the internal collapse?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I stand pat on the knockout. (laughter) But, of course, any windfall will be gratefully accepted. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, some quarters interpret your remarks to Congress on bombing to mean that other methods, which you said should not be excluded, should be postponed until the termination of the experiment.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Oh, No. That would be a most -- a most distorted deduction to draw. I said -- I said there is no reason why the experiment should not be continued, provided other methods are not excluded -- I mean other simultaneous methods, or current methods, are not excluded.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, whenever you and the President confer, the rumor always goes around that you are about to

pick an Allied commander in the European theatre. Could you tell us whether you have done that?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Done what?

Q. Picked an Allied commander for the European theatre?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, we have -- we have an Allied commander in the theatre that is at present in force in Northwest Africa.

Q. I was thinking of the next one, sir? (laughter)

THE PRIME MINISTER: No step of that kind has been taken at the present moment, because the great preparations that are going forward ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. Prime Minister, back to Australia ---

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) --- haven't got to the point where the executive commander has to be chosen.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, ---

MISS MAY CRAIG: (interposing) Mr. Prime Minister, this may be an oversight, or you might not have been informed of this either, but I am curious to know what you think is going on in Hitler's mind now? (much laughter)

THE PRIME MINISTER: I have very little doubt that if he could have the past back he would probably play his hand a little differently. I think he would have hesitated long, before he rejected all the repeated peace efforts that were made by Great Britain, which even brought the name of our government into disrepute, so far did we go on the path of trying to

placate and appease.

But he then got out of the period where he was restoring his country to its place among the countries of Europe. He had achieved that, but that wasn't what he was after at all. Appetite unbridled, ambition unmeasured -- all the world! There was no end to the appetite of this -- of this wicked man. I should say he repents now that he did not curb his passion before he brought such a great portion of the world against him and his country.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you think it's a sound assumption that he still has a mind? (laughter)

THE PRIME MINISTER: Do I think what?

Q. Do you think it's a sound assumption that he still has a mind?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I have no reason to suppose that he isn't in control of his faculties, and of the resources of his country. But, of course, I haven't the same facilities of acquainting myself with what is going on there, as I fortunately have on what is going on in the United States. (laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, do you care to say anything about Mussolini, and Italy? Is there any hint or news that you can bring us on that?

THE PRIME MINISTER: You know as much as I do about that. I think they are a softer proposition than Germany ---

Q. (interposing) What kind of proposition?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Softer.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Softer -- but I wouldn't count

on anything but the force of arms. It may be aided at any time by a change of heart on the part of the enemy's country -- countries, a weakening of morale.

Italy -- nobody proposes to take the native soil of Italy away from the Italian people. They will have their life. They will have their life in the new Europe. They have sinned -- erred -- by allowing themselves to be led by the nose by a very elaborate tyranny which was imposed upon them so that it gripped every part of their life. The one-party totalitarian system, plus the secret police applied over a number of years is capable of completely obliterating the sense of personal liberty.

And thus they were led by intriguing leaders -- who thought they had got the chance of five thousand years in aggrandizing themselves by the misfortunes of their neighbors who had not offended them in any way -- into this terrible plight in which they find themselves.

I think they would be very well advised to dismiss those leaders, and -- and throw themselves upon the -- upon the justice of those they have so grievously offended. We -- we should not stain our names before posterity by cruel and inhuman acts. We have our own reputation to consider. But after all it really is a matter for them to settle among themselves, and settle with their leaders.

All we can do is to apply those physical stimuli -- (laughter) -- which in default of moral sanctions are -- are sometimes capable of inducing a better state of mind in recalcitrant individuals and recalcitrant nations. (more laughter)

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, there has been a lot of interest in the experts from India you brought with you. Would you care to comment about the situation in India, or China?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, I am very anxious to increase the intensity of the war effort against Japan, and therefore brought these commanders-in-chief in order that they could meet with the United States officers, and particularly with those who have been serving with such effect in China, like General (Claire) Chennault and General (Joseph W.) Stilwell, and the high officers here, because it is evident that the war in that theatre must be prosecuted with the very greatest vigor, and on the best lines. And we have been talking a great deal about that, and thinking a great deal, and have arrived at conclusions which I believe are sound -- are good.

When I was here -- when I saw you last in -- in December 1941, or January 1942 -- I forget which it was -- when I did, of course, this question of priority -- which was first and which was second of the two great theatres and antagonists -- assumed a much more sharp form than at the present time. Our resources have greatly expanded. If the war continues on both fronts the war will be waged with equal force as our resources grow. Instead of being consecutive our efforts will be concurrent, and that great degree of effort will be capable of being applied at the same time in both directions. They have been already applied.

The forces that we have are becoming very respectable in munitions, and in men trained to war of all kinds; but as I

pointed out to Congress, the problem is one of application, and that problem of application is limited by distance, and the U-boat war, the amount of shipping, the character of the communications, the vast distances of the ocean. Our forces are growing and gathering their ambition, but to apply it is a matter of time, and it is exceedingly difficult to apply.

But we follow out this principle, that all soldiers must be engaged, and ships and airplanes must be engaged on the widest possible fronts, the broadest possible superficies, and maintain the fighting with the utmost intensity, because we are the stronger animal; we are the stronger combination; we are shaking the life out of the enemy; and as we are able to continue, we will not give him a moment's surcease.

This is particularly true of the air, where they are already beginning to fail to keep up at all to the necessary strength on the various fronts. Neither Japan nor Germany is able to maintain equality with Britain, the United States and Russia on all the fronts.

Still less are they able to do so in the field of production. Immense plurality -- the superiority of production -- is on our side. And although it takes a certain number of months after planes are made before they come into action -- perhaps a good many months, having regard to all the distances to be covered, and to the large ground staffs that have to be transported -- but in spite of that, at the end of certain periods, the great superiority in numbers of our manufacture and of our trading is bound to have effect, which so far as the air war

is concerned will be decisive.

Whether the ending of the air war -- the deciding of the air war will entail a similar ending of the other forms of warfare has yet to be seen. But the air was the weapon these people chose to subjugate the world.

Q. (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) This was the weapon they struck at Pearl Harbor with. This was the weapon with which they boasted -- the Germans boasted they would terrorize all the countries of the world. And it is an example of poetic justice that this should be the weapon in which they should find themselves most out-matched and first out-matched in the ensuing struggle.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, have you anything to say about the submarine side of the situation?

THE PRIME MINISTER: I am very much encouraged by all that has happened there since the turn of the year. Really, it has been -- it has been very encouraging. The -- the output from the United States' shipyards is prodigious and has fulfilled all hopes, hopes which, when the -- the plans were first made and published, seemed to be excessive. But they have been made good. The movement of supplies across the ocean has been on an increasing scale. The surplus of -- of new building over sinkings over the last six months has been substantial, especially in the later months; and the killings of U-boats have improved and reached a very high pitch -- never better than in the last month.

MR. GODWIN: What was that word, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Killings.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Killings ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) --- of U-boats. I mean the killings of U-boats by our forces.

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) That is due, of course, to the increasing numbers of U-boats, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) --- but it is also due to the improved methods, and some wonderful things -- wonderful things that have been thought of on both sides of the Atlantic. And, of course, we interchange everything immediately. Anything we have we share and bring into action. A lot of clever people are thinking a lot about these things.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, there is -- there is a great deal more confidence in the Allied commanders in the field than there was a year ago. Would you care to comment on that?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, they have had a chance to come into action on reasonable terms. Indeed, on advantageous terms, because we -- we struck with superior forces at the right spot. We -- as your Confederate general (Nathan Bedford Forrest, a Cavalry commander in the Civil War) used to say, "We got there firstest with the mostest." (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: (aside) That's right.

THE PRIME MINISTER: (continuing) And also, because

our troops have -- since I was here last -- been equipped with all the best weapons. You have only got to turn the industry of the United States and Britain over from peace to war. It undoubtedly takes a couple of years or more to get it running, but when it does run it gives you a flow of weapons which certainly neither Germany nor Japan possibly can beat us.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, would you undertake to make a prediction on the progress of the war for the rest of this year? I have in mind your -- this statement you and the President made at Casablanca, on new and heavier blows against all of the Axis members in 1943?

THE PRIME MINISTER: Well, I think -- I think that seems to be a very sound prediction, and couched in terms which are unexceptionable from the point of view of military security. (laughter)

Q. Thank you very much, sir.

Q. Thank you.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Thank you very much.

(the newspapermen started to leave rather slowly, and the Prime Minister climbed onto his chair and gave the "V" for Victory sign with his fingers, which was accompanied by much applause)

THE PRESIDENT: May I say one word, please? Don't get the idea that the conferences are concluded. They are not.

They are continuing. (laughter)

THE PRIME MINISTER: We have a lot of ground to cover.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Thank you.

(extra copy of this Press Conference
for the Prime Minister)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #900
Executive Office of the President
June 4, 1943 -- 10.55 A.M., E.W.T.

MR. EARLY: (to the President, after talking with May Craig): May is a grandmother.

THE PRESIDENT: May! No! Don't advertise it, nobody would know it. (she smiled back)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't ---

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: (President of The White House Correspondents' Association) (interposing) Mr. President, we are what you call reversing things this time. We have something for you to start a Press Conference.

You will recall that last February most of us here, including yourself, and excluding the ladies, attended a dinner up at the Statler Hotel. The White House Correspondents are trying for the first time to raise some money for the infantile paralysis campaign. Well, the hotel was new, and their auditing department was a little green -- (laughter) -- and we had a little trouble getting things squared away, but finally we have.

So it is a great pleasure to be able to tell you, sir, that we have a check for you for a thousand dollars ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Gosh!

MR. DOUGLAS CORNELL: (continuing) --- for the infantile paralysis campaign, which Mr. Wootton -- Paul Wootton will present to you.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Paul, that's perfectly fine. You and Doug very greatly surprised me.

MR. PAUL WOOTTON: Well, Mr. President, The White House Correspondents' Association feels very happy that we have had the opportunity to help such a worthy organization as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. And we also think that it is fitting for us to do a little something toward a cause that we have seen you do so much for.

THE PRESIDENT: I am very, very grateful. That is a real surprise. It makes me think that -- after this -- speech-making on my part pays. (laughter)

Q. It always has. (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Pays and pays.

That is very, very welcome; and of course, on this infantile paralysis work, one of the things -- I always rap on wood -- we have been extremely fortunate in, is not having any serious epidemic among the armed forces yet. Of course, we hope we will go through with that fine record. There are always a certain number of cases of infantile paralysis at all times, because it is endemic rather than epidemic; and we are taking steps -- the Foundation -- all the time, to prepare for the eventualities of -- of a real epidemic. We hope it won't come, but, in any event, research is going on through the National Foundation.

And every year, I think, we are learning more and more about the treatment of infantile. We haven't got very far yet through science, in discovering the -- the cause and the --

and the spread; but at least the care of it has improved to such a point that a very large percentage of the -- of the infantile paralysis cases -- which incidentally hit grownups just as well as children -- a very large percentage of them are able to recover sufficiently to get about and lead -- lead a useful life.

I am very grateful to The White House Correspondents' Association.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us anything about Mr. (Joseph E.) Davies' mission now?

THE PRESIDENT: I think Yes. I think I can tell you that he brought back a letter to me from Marshal Stalin, and that the understanding and accord between us are excellent. I think that's all.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us whether troop protection will be extended to the miners who wish to return to work Monday?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think on -- on that question, it's better not to say anything, because in a sense it's a bit "iffy." I hope they will go back to work on Monday.

I think I can -- I can say this: that there has been a good deal written about the induction of miners into the armed services. Now there is nothing startling or new about that. The rule is a very, very simple one. And I hope you will make it clear that it doesn't apply just to miners, but it applies to everybody else. If anybody is deferred because of an occupation which is essential to the war, normally you will

remain deferred as long as you work at that occupation. When you cease to work at that occupation -- as I say, this is not just miners, it's everybody -- every essential work that is necessary to the war -- as soon as you stop that work for the nation, then you are liable to be inducted into the armed forces. I think that's -- that's a very simple explanation of what a great deal has been unnecessarily made of it (sic).

Q. Mr. President, is there any prospect that you might extend that rule to miners who are not specifically deferred for that reason, but have been deferred perhaps, or haven't yet been called, or for some other reason?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That's just like everybody else, if they haven't got something the matter with them physically and have been deferred because of that.

Q. I didn't mean that. I thought some of them there will be 3-A, because they were -- for dependency reasons?

THE PRESIDENT: They would just be like everybody else on the dependents' rule -- no distinction.

Q. Sir, there has been some indication that certain alien laws might be invoked in the case of the aliens working in the mines, who had struck. It wasn't exactly clear just exactly what they might be. Do you care to say anything about that?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't quite understand.

Q. I didn't, either.

THE PRESIDENT: No aliens --- (laughter). Aliens are inducted. I think it's just the same rule; there wouldn't be

any change.

Q. Would the aliens law -- the law against aliens be invoked against aliens who struck?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think so. Just treat them like anybody else.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us if you received any advice as to whether or not the parties might be disposed to settle ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) The what?

Q. Could you tell us if you have received advice as to whether the parties might be disposed to settle the railway wage question, on the basis of these Emergency Board's reports?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't had any official advice yet, but I think the only -- on the Railway Labor Board report, the only question, frankly, is something that wasn't taken up by the mediators; and that relates to quite a large number of railway workers who are not paid on the mileage basis. Locomotive engineers and conductors and trainmen, and so forth and so on, are paid on the -- on the mileage basis, not -- not a per hour or a per diem rate of mileage. There are a large number of other people -- for instance, trackwalkers and white-collar people in the offices, and under rulings up to date they have not been getting time-and-a-half for overtime. In other words, they are more on the industrial end -- the clerical end, than the people who run the trains.

And the question I have -- I have written a letter to Mr. (George M.) Harrison (Grand President of Railway and

Steamship Clerks), I think, and Mr. (J. J.) Pelley (President, Association of American Railroads), to ask them to confer as to the exemption from the time-and-a-half law in respect to the people who are not on a mileage basis. So it seems -- that is a question as to whether, just because they happen to work in a -- in the Grand Central Depot, for example, in the offices there, as opposed to a department store just around the corner, which does pay time-and-a-half, why they shouldn't get time-and-a-half too.

Q. Mr. President, could we have that letter, sir? Could you have Steve (Early) give us a copy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think that's all right, Steve.

MR. EARLY: All right, sir.

Q. Mr. President, there have been some reports that you might enlarge the Office of War Mobilization to provide for a representative of labor, and I guess agriculture. Any ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Oh Yes, yes. It is generally advanced by the same -- the same newspaper owners that are yelling for a war cabinet of very small size, on the ground that the present people who meet with the Cabinet are about 17, and they want a very small Cabinet. Well, this Mobilization committee is not a -- especially a Cabinet -- I don't know what the word is -- it is a small group with rather over-all powers; and as soon as it is set up, the policy of these same newspaper owners is to demand that it be made just as big as the other one was. It's rather amusing. In fact, it's almost a scream.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us anything about

the report that Admiral (William H.) Standley (our Ambassador to Russia) had submitted his resignation, please?

THE PRESIDENT: I am sure he hasn't. He hasn't to me, and he hasn't to the State Department.

Q. Mr. President, are you giving special attention to commercial fisheries?

THE PRESIDENT: To what?

Q. Commercial fisheries?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not, but a lot of people are.

Q. I understood there was a request that commercial fisheries be given a higher rank in Government?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say it has just as high a rank as almost anything else. It is very important to get fish. I don't think we grade things according to rank. Only -- only in -- in the drawing rooms of Washington do we do that. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, are there any plans for a radio speech?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #901
Executive Office of the President
June 8, 1943 -- 4.02 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good afternoon, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (to May Craig) Any more grandchildren, May, since last Friday?

MAY CRAIG: I'm a wreck. (laughter)

Q. (female) She hasn't as many as I have.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Did they say All In?

MR. ROMAGNA: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: I only -- I only have one thing, which I suppose would come up fairly soon, and I thought I might as well reduce it to writing. And Steve (Early) will have it for you when you go out.

(reading): "A Statement by the President.

"From time to time, since the present war began, there have been reports that one or more of the Axis powers was seriously contemplating use of poisonous or noxious gases, or other inhumane devices of warfare.

"I have been loathe to believe that any nation, even our present enemies, could or would be willing to loose upon mankind such terrible and inhumane weapons. However, evidence that the Axis powers are making significant preparations indicative of such an intention is being reported with increasing frequency from a variety of sources.

"Use of such weapons has been outlawed by the

general opinion of civilized mankind. This country has not used them, and I hope we will never be compelled to use them. I state categorically that we shall under no circumstances resort to the use of such weapons, unless they are first used by our enemies.

"As President of the United States, and as Commander-in-Chief of the American Armed Forces, I want to make it clear beyond all doubt to any of our enemies contemplating a resort to such desperate and barbarous methods, that acts of this nature committed against any one of the United Nations will be regarded as having been committed against the United States itself, and will be treated accordingly. We promise to any perpetrators of such crimes full and swift retaliation in kind. And I feel obliged now to warn the Axis armies and the Axis peoples, in Europe and in Asia, that the terrible consequences of any use of these inhumane methods on their part will be brought down swiftly and surely upon their own heads.

"Any use of gas by any Axis power, therefore, will immediately be followed by the fullest possible retaliation upon munitions centers, seaports and other military objectives throughout the whole extent of the territory of such Axis country."

That's strong enough.

VOICES: Yes, sir. (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think there's anything else.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us anything about your first meeting with the Office of War Mobilization?

THE PRESIDENT: Had a very successful meeting. We discussed a great many subjects.

Q. Do you want to be a little more specific?

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) No, because we discussed so many that it wouldn't be fair to single out any one.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us about your luncheon with Sister (Elizabeth) Kenny, and Dr. (Basil) O'Connor?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we talked about this method of treatment of infantile paralysis cases which has been very successful, and the relationship of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to it, and discussed principally the need of training more people in the method, so that it could be used in a widespread way throughout the country. People are being trained at the present time, but not in sufficient numbers.

Q. Mr. President, would it be proper for us to call the War Mobilization Committee a War Cabinet?

THE PRESIDENT: I would call it the War Mobilization Committee. It doesn't cost much more. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, is it to meet regularly on a certain ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. Is it to meet regularly on a certain day?

THE PRESIDENT: We are going to try to meet on Mondays. We may meet in between, or if some of us can't be there Monday, it might be put off until Tuesday.

Q. By "we," do you mean that you will participate at least once a week?

THE PRESIDENT: I won't promise to.

Q. Is that the general idea, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. And then the Committee might itself meet?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh my, Yes. They don't have to have me.

Q. Mr. President, was there anyone present besides the Cabinet officers and the original members?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's all.

Q. Just those?

THE PRESIDENT: Then, of course, they will call in people on special subjects all the time.

Q. Mr. President, have you reached the point where you can name the man who will represent the United States on the United Nations Food Conference Interim Commission?

THE PRESIDENT: Not yet.

Q. Fairly soon?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think I have had any nominations from the State Department yet.

Q. It will come through State?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us whether an American officer has been selected to be Supreme Commander of the forthcoming invasion of Europe? (laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: That's a leading question. (more laughter)

Q. Well, I meant it to be, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, No. That would -- I suppose you will know it a few months after he was chosen.

Q. Mr. President, have you received the resignation of the Auditor of Puerto Rico, Mr. Fitzsimmons?

THE PRESIDENT: Have I, Steve? I think I have.

MR. EARLY: Not to my knowledge.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Not to my knowledge, sir.

Q. (interposing) Would you say anything yet about ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I can't -- I can't -- I have an idea that I have received it, and I haven't -- Steve has an idea that I haven't.

MR. EARLY: Not that I know of.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

MR. EARLY: Not that I know of.

THE PRESIDENT: I think I have, but I am not dead sure. (laughter)

MR. EARLY: (aside) Up in the air -- another one of those things I don't know.

THE PRESIDENT: Better send for Rudolf (Forster).

Q. Mr. President, is there any word you care to say about current affairs in Argentina?

THE PRESIDENT: I think not.

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Mr. Forster says No, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: No? All right. (laughter)

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, the National Committee for the Liberation of France, that newly formed Committee, is that stable enough to be recognized as a government?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't think there's any news on that at present, Pete. Better treat it that way.

Q. Any word, sir, on the signing of the Pay-as-you-go tax bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it -- it will be signed very shortly.

Q. (interposing) Are you just ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) I think the Treasury knows that I am going to sign it, I can say that much. Preparations are being made to carry it into effect.

Q. Mr. President, will that be followed by a request for more taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think -- I don't know what -- whether we can put it in the form of -- as you put it -- as a request, but I think everybody realizes that we have this gap of savings, a gap that causes increase in prices, and that there can't be any economic change in the country except to close that gap -- that is not a change, it's the same thing -- to close that gap one way or another.

Well, there are probably two ways it might be used jointly. One is the compulsory savings, and the other is taxes, probably a combination of the two -- just as much -- just as necessary now as it was last January.

Q. Mr. President, Congress is getting ready to

take a couple of months vacation. Is it likely that there will be any tax recommendation before they depart?

THE PRESIDENT: I think there will be a recommendation before they actually go home.

Q. From you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. From you, sir?

Q. From you, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Probably.

Q. Mr. President, is it still the ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, is the 16 billion (dollars) to be revised upward in the new taxes?

THE PRESIDENT: I will have to tell you that when I know that I am going to say something about it.

Q. Mr. President, can they get -- close that gap as of now, unless you have more excise taxes and more sales taxes, or whatever you want to call them, which couldn't be done by an income tax increase, because it would ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I don't know about the details at all. That is up to Congress. But, of course, at the present time, this -- this gap has not been closed, ---

Q. (interjecting) That's right.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- and the quicker it is closed the better.

Q. Do you feel, despite the tremendous success of the last Bond Drive, that compulsory savings may still be necessary to eliminate this inflationary gap?

THE PRESIDENT: Perfectly possible.

Q. Mr. President, you said you weren't going into details. It would be fair to assume from that ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, I wouldn't assume it, because that is entirely up to Congress.

Q. Mr. President, are you still mad at a sales tax?

THE PRESIDENT: General sales tax?

Q. Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, because it hits the poorer people in the country, and after all most people belong to that classification. That doesn't mean that every excise tax could be classified as a sales tax.

Well, just for example -- this will probably interest all of you -- in England they have very greatly increased the excise taxes on cigarettes and tobacco and liquor, and they are consuming just as many cigarettes today, and I think probably just as much liquor, as they did before, -- (laughter) -- showing -- showing a very excellent method of closing the gap.

Q. Mr. President, are you disappointed, sir, that the President of Chile (Juan Antonio Rios) has had to postpone his trip a second time?

THE PRESIDENT: I only know what I read in the paper. I am awfully sorry, and I hope he will come very soon. I am seeing the Chilean Ambassador with a message from President Rios, about five o'clock this afternoon. So far, officially, I only know what I have seen in the papers.

Q. Mr. President, to revert to this poison gas state-

ment, are there any indications that the Axis was intending very soon to use poison gas?

THE PRESIDENT: (picking up his copy of the Statement) I don't think I can go any further than what I said here.

(reading): "However, evidence that the Axis powers are making significant preparations indicative of such an intention is being reported with increasing frequency from a variety of sources."

Q. Do you have in mind, sir, what Axis nations, or is there one nation in particular?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I think the -- that term is sufficient.

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) It's plural. I will have you notice that.

Q. Can you elaborate, at least from the American angle, on the plans which the Prime Minister (Winston Churchill) spoke of today?

THE PRESIDENT: I haven't read it. I just found it here. (indicating)

Q. (adding) For amphibious operations of a peculiarly complex nature?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think -- I haven't read it. I had better read the whole sentence. (laughter)

Q. One more question about Puerto Rico, if I may. Are you ready to say anything about appointing an Attorney

General down there?

THE PRESIDENT: No.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #902
Executive Office of the President
June 11, 1943 -- 11.04 A.M., E.W.T.

Q. Good morning.

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning.

Q. Good morning, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (after a pause) Are they All In?

Q. Not yet.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There's a very good piece of news this morning. We had a flash this morning that Pantelleria has surrendered. I don't know whether that was picked up by the press. The message came in the clear a short time ago. The reason, apparently, that they have surrendered was that they haven't got enough water left; and white flags were flying.

I think it's rather -- rather worth while to point out that the fall of Pantelleria, which we have taken apparently without any great loss of life, is what the Italians called the "Gibraltar" -- their "Gibraltar," at the narrow part of the Mediterranean. They did a great deal of boasting about the strength of it -- domination of the Mediterranean from it. And apparently now it is in the hands of the British and ourselves.

(at the President's direction, an excerpt was made on the following statement regarding Italy for the use of Elmer Davis and Robert

Sherwood in broadcasting. In the case of Mr. Sherwood, the President saw this excerpt and made a few eliminations, shown here in parentheses)

(In that connection, I have written out -- I won't give it to you as a statement, but sometime ago I started to write out a thing on which I will just talk -- won't follow it literally.)

This seems to be an opportune time to say a word, through the press and over the air, to the Italian people. I think that they should be reminded that the present effect(s) of the British-American campaign against their country is a perfectly logical and inevitable result of the ruthless course that has been pursued during these last years by Mussolini who, in forming the military alliance with Germany, has betrayed his own country in a struggle for personal power and aggrandizement.

These acts were not the acts of the Italian people. The succession of these irresponsible acts were committed by his personal Fascist regime, in the name of Italy, but not actually representing the Italian people, who are on the whole, by and large, a people devoted to peace. It was well shown in the (-- finally in the) completely unprovoked declaration of war by Italy, something I referred to once as a "stab in the back."

Of course, we have no choice but to prosecute the war against the government of Mussolini and the armed

forces of Mussolini until we have complete victory.

And I think it is fair to say that all of us -- I think I can speak for all the United Nations -- are agreed that when the German domination of Italy is ended and the Fascist regime is thrown out, that we can well assure the Italian people of their freedom to choose the kind of non-Fascist, non-Nazi kind of government that they wish to establish. Obviously, they can't do anything about it until Fascism is put down, and the Germans leave their territories.

The United Nations, I think, (have no intention -- put it the other way around -- that they) certainly <u>have</u> the intention -- the hope -- that Italy will be restored to real nationhood, and take her place as a <u>respected</u> member of the European family of nations, with emphasis on the word respected.

And when the Germans are driven out of Italy, and Fascism is abolished, only then will the good judgment -- the ultimate good judgment of the Italian people themselves become evident.

(end of statement)

Outside of that, I don't think I have anything. That is pretty good news about Pantelleria.

Q. Mr. President, was the island -- did the island surrender without any landing operation, or not?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. I haven't got that detail. There were white flags flying.

Q. Mr. President, was that this morning, or

could it possibly have been on the tenth day of June? (the anniversary three years ago when Italy declared war on France and England)

THE PRESIDENT: I think not. I think it was this morning. (laughter)

Q. Too bad.

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. That's too bad.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) Yes -- for somebody who said it has already occurred (on the tenth of June).

Q. From whom did you receive the news, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: From Eisenhower.

Q. When did you receive it, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I couldn't tell you the exact hour it got in, but I got it about ---

Q. (interjecting) Over the radio at eight o'clock.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- about half-past eight; but that was because I wasn't awakened until then. They may have had it for some time.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, may I speak on a domestic matter? There seems to be some confusion as to what you said or intended in your last press conference about higher taxes and compulsory savings, and I want to ask you do you intend to ask for compulsory savings, in view ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- of the fact that we have ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I think you have hit it right on the head. I think there was some confusion about what I said. I have -- I went over the actual notes of the conference. We were talking about -- primarily about the theory of taxation, and I made it perfectly clear that the Congress, of course -- the House itself -- initiates all tax legislation.

And I was asked if compulsory savings may still be necessary to eliminate this inflationary gap that we were talking about; and I replied that this was possible. Of course, any kind of taxation is possible. We talked about -- even about the -- about a sales tax; and I said I was utterly opposed to it. A sales tax is possible, of course, if the Congress enacts a sales tax. They might have to pass it over my veto, but it is always possible. There are lots of forms of taxation that are possible.

Also, it is obvious -- I said that taxes, and compulsory savings -- taxes being of many forms -- could be used jointly. That is perfectly true, too. And I did not say that they would be used jointly. We were talking about the theory of taxation.

At the present time, the public has been supporting the Bond Drive with remarkable and great success. The last one was over-subscribed -- Oh, what? -- four or five billion dollars, and as long as that continues -- I -- I notice

that Chairman (Walter F.) George expressed himself as feeling, after the Second War Loan, that compulsory savings will not be necessary; which we hope they won't be. I never came out in favor of compulsory savings. I am sorry if I gave anybody the wrong idea.

MR. GODWIN: You do not intend to ask for ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) No, certainly not.

Q. Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, ---

Q. (interposing) Mr. President, in connection with this -----. Are you through, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I have got something else down here.

Then we were talking also -- in the notes -- about this gap, the inflationary gap. And of course, it is perfectly clear that we want, as fast as we possibly can, to close that gap.

I certainly -- I am sorry if I gave that impression. The actual notes of the thing could have been construed that way, but on the other hand they could have been construed the way I have said it.

Q. Well, Mr. President, in your Budget Message to the Congress, you said that you wanted 16 billion dollars in additional revenue legislation, through taxes, savings, or both. Now what kind of legislation could there be, sir, on savings which would not be of a compulsory character?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I don't know. There are

various kinds that can be -- I mean, don't ---

Q. (interposing) Would you legislate voluntarism?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. You wouldn't legislate voluntarism?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, you could. It is perfectly possible. Now that sounds crazy, but it's perfectly possible.

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, there are reports that it was suggested yesterday at this conference held by Mr. Byrnes that they withhold as high as forty percent. Can you comment on that at all?

THE PRESIDENT: No. Now we are getting into deep water. (laughter)

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us if the plan has gone far enough to tell how you are going to close that gap?

THE PRESIDENT: No. That is up to Congress. I may send a Message on -- which probably won't go into very much detail -- we don't generally do that, you know. We have always said that the Treasury is available, and they will have dozens of different ways of raising it. It is up to Congress to decide. We have -- we have got to get that into their heads. Congress has to decide. Congress has to decide. We can ask the Treasury to do this, that and the other thing, and they do it; and it works out pretty well.

MR. GODWIN: With a continuation of the voluntary subscription -- voluntary bond buying -- millions of people buying more, won't the amount of money that is raised by the bonds have some effect on your request to Congress ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- as to plans? That is so, isn't it?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q. Mr. President, can you say whether the estimates of the inflationary gap, which was fixed at 16 billion last January, have gone up in view of mounting national income?

THE PRESIDENT: I think slightly, so far, but they are threatening ---

Q. (interposing) The gap is widening?

THE PRESIDENT: The gap is widening a little bit, because of course the cost of living has gone up -- pay has gone up; but some of these -- some of these proposals that have been made for further inflation, both in wages and farm prices, would of course increase that gap.

Q. Well, what I had in mind, sir, was that you have stated it is your intention to close the gap. Could we assume from that that the 16 billion dollar hope might go up a little in your Message?

THE PRESIDENT: That I don't know. I wouldn't say that yet. And, of course, a small portion of it was closed by that bill the other day.

Q. Mr. President, is it correct to interpret your statement that -- as meaning that the main emphasis of your Message will be the closing of the inflationary gap, that is, the necessity for dealing with that question?

THE PRESIDENT: In the first place, don't --

don't put it as if I was sure of sending the Message. I don't know yet.

Q. (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) But if I do, such a Message will be not on closing the inflationary gap but the whole proposition of inflation, not merely the Treasury end -- the effect of inflation on the Treasury -- but also the effects of inflation on everybody in this country -- purchasing power.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, you have a drive in Congress which seems to be aimed at stopping subsidies and the borrowing of money from the R.F.C., a situation which seems to be counter to the plans of the Administration -- it seems to be getting in their way. Have you anything to say about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, didn't they have an expression in England in the last War called "The Better 'Ole"?

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: I would very much like to have somebody say to me, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Find a better 'ole?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- "I have found a better 'ole." And it's all -- all very wellin life to adopt the attitude that you don't like this, you don't like that, or you don't like the other thing. Of course, the real answer is, what in blazes do you like?

VOICES: Thank you, Mr. President.

(Notebook PC-XIV -- Page 103 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #903
Executive Office of the President
June 11, 1943 -- 11.30 A.M., E.W.T.

(this Press Conference was held for the National Conference of Business Paper Editors)

MR. PAUL WOOTON: We have got a little larger group this time, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Good. Good.

(hardly a sound as they all file in)

MR. WOOTON: They are more quiet than the daily press.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, yes.

Somebody say All In?

MR. WOOTON: I don't know. They are still coming in.

VOICE: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: There you are.

VOICE: All in.

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, this group has come to Washington again. You have been kind enough to talk to them before, and give them texts for their editorials, and ideas for them to expand into their articles. The group really has done a perfectly magnificent job ever since this armament program started ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well now, wait a minute, Paul. (laughter) I don't know why you should try

to sell this group to me. (more laughter) I know them just as well as you do.

MR. WOOTON: I think that's right.

THE PRESIDENT: I feel -- I feel just as much in favor of them as you do, but your timing is bad -- (laughter) -- your timing is thoroughly bad.

MR. WOOTON: I know that.

THE PRESIDENT: You know, sometimes it's an awfully nice thing for me to act as an agent instead of a principal, and I have been delegated by the Associated Business Papers today to put the shoe on the other foot and tell you what they think about you. (laughter)

MR. WOOTON: May I please retire? (more laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I know it's frightfully embarrassing, but you have got to go through with it. Now it isn't only that you think that they are all right, but they think you are all right.

MR. WOOTON: (interjecting) (softly) I can't imagine that.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) So I have been given -- delegated the privilege, at this time, of speaking for them to you.

The business press feels a great debt of gratitude to Paul Wooton, who has done so much to promote good coordination and better understanding between the officials of the Federal Government and the editors of publications serving industry and business; and as an indication of the esteem in

which he is held by his professional colleagues -- I never knew you were professional before, but it's all right -- (laughter) -- I am, in their behalf, tendering to you this memento of their appreciation.

(here the President handed Mr. Wooton a gold watch)

MR. WOOTON: For pity's sake, Mr. President! That's what you call a kind of a ----. Isn't that wonderful!

THE PRESIDENT: Then, for those in the back of the room who haven't seen it yet, it's a very beautiful little gold watch, and on it is this inscription, "Presented to Paul Wooton by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, on behalf of the Association of Business Papers, in appreciation of his outstanding service to the business press in time of war. June 11, 1943."

(applause for Mr. Wooton)

THE PRESIDENT: Now you can make another speech. (laughter)

MR. WOOTON: Mr. President, it seems to me like we are kind of reversing the process. Last Friday I stood here in this room and on behalf of The White House Correspondents' Association I gave you a check, and now here you are passing something on to me. (more laughter)

Well, Mr. President, I can't -- I don't know how to tell you, but ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Don't tell me, tell

them. (more laughter)

MR. WOOTON: I want to tell you -- I want to tell you this first, that it enhances the value of this very much, the fact that you presented it.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Grand.

MR. WOOTON: (continuing) And to the Editors, I want to say that they have been wonderful to me. I have tried to help a little bit by bringing them in closer contact with Washington officials. I know that when they come face to face with these men, and see that they are sincere and honest and try to do their job, they don't write so many nasty editorials. (laughter) And to the Editors, I certainly want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. It's just a wonderful -- wonderful tribute, and I appreciate it very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Fine.

MR. WOOTON: Thank you all.

(applause)

Mr. President, we came here, and we didn't shake hands this morning because we wanted the group a little larger, and we wanted to take the time so that we could hear from you. Now, if you will just give us a few texts that I mentioned, it will be very useful.

THE PRESIDENT: I think the best text I can tell you is what I started my Press Conference with. Pantelleria has fallen, apparently a surrender this morning on the basis of lack of water; but anyway they have surrendered.

Q. (aside) Good.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) And it is a fine thing that we have been able to get this very important "Gibraltar" of Italy apparently without the loss of life or any fighting. It is just another -- another step in the progress of the war. And certainly I think all of us feel a lot better about the progress of the war than we did the last time we were together in this -- in this room. On the whole, things are going pretty well.

I am always appalled, of course, by the -- I am just as impatient as you are -- the difficulties of staging another operation in the war, either in the Pacific or in the Atlantic, without spending the tremendous amount of time that is necessary in preparation -- even a minor operation -- that takes weeks and months to get it so organized that there is a reasonable chance for its success on the "M" Day or "D" Day, or whatever you call it. That is why we -- we all have to remember that things can't end in a military way in any short period of time. The only -- the only quick ending to a war of this kind, of course, will be the collapse of the enemy; and as Mr. Churchill has said so often, that is something we can't put our faith in, or base our plans on. In all probability it is going to take a long time before the Axis powers collapse -- Pacific and Atlantic.

In the meantime we have, of course, an awful lot of problems at home. But every time I go through the country, or go to North Africa -- (laughter) -- and come back here, I have a perfectly natural feeling about the futility of so many of

the things that one has to spend an awful lot of time on in Washington, D. C. The people of the country are all right. Well, we have been going through the most awful growing pains in Washington, as you know. And we are going to keep on, because we are growing all the time -- certainly haven't reached maturity in waging war -- new problems that keep coming up.

The problem of the last year that seemed of importance in Washington, today is of relative minor importance. Oh, we have all talked -- I have too; and printed -- I have too -- (laughter) -- columns and columns, for example, about the question of manpower. Well, a lot of people got completely panicky about -- about manpower. And both last September's trip, and last month's -- April -- trip, where I went out through the country, I came back to Washington, and said -- and I said to a lot of friends, "Don't talk to me about manpower any more, because the manpower question has been solved by womanpower." Now that is a simple fact. You go into plant after plant -- aviation plants and tank plants -- and you will find women who are in those plants up to a very high percentage, in some cases over fifty percent. It is working out extraordinarily well.

And some of the -- some of the impressions of a neophyte like I was, going around, are interesting.

I said to one of the old West Pointers in one of the places where they had a lot of WAACs, "How are you getting on with all these "gals" around here?"

And he said, "We have put in 750 more. We not only need them, we can use them very usefully to release manpower

as opposed to womanpower for the various fronts."

And he said, "Incidentally, we old West Pointers, they have taught us something. We were sloppy. They salute better than we do. (laughter) They are snappier in every way. They have improved the morale of this Post fifty percent."

And then I went into one of the plane factories, I think it was in Omaha, and I said to one of the old -- the old-type foremen -- machinist foremen, and I said, "How do you like -- you have been in this business for a long time -- how do you like having all these "gals" around here, in places fifty percent of them?"

"Well," he said, "it has done something to us." "I don't know what it is," he says, patting his chin. "Look at my face."

"I said, "What's the matter?"

He said, "I used to shave twice or three times a week, but I have to shave every day now." (laughter) He says, "My wife is kicking about it."

I said, "Why? Because there are so many girls around?"

He said, "No, not that, but I wear a clean shirt every day, and it means more wash back home." (more laughter)

Well, all sorts of little human touches and things like that, and a great many other things, to show that we are solving things in ways that we hadn't planned for.

I suppose -- two years ago, actually it happened, a few people down here worked on the manpower problem; and with an Army of -- Army and Navy proposed of five million men,

they all shook their heads and said, "It can't be done. You can't run the factories. Everything will go out of kilter." Well, people have come forward, and we find that with an Army and Navy of nine or ten million men we are not having half the problems we thought we would have with only five million. And in the same way on -- Oh, a great many other things.

I take it that you are all more or less interested in -- in finance. Well, the money is coming in pretty well. We have got to keep it going at the same speed of that last War Loan, over-subscribed about -- about five billion dollars -- a little thing like that. (laughter) It was a tremendous success, and of course, obviously, the more money we can raise in the process of war, keeping values down as far as we can, the less we will -- we will have to pay after the war is over, not just our children and grandchildren, but ourselves.

And it is terribly important of course, in my judgment, to prevent inflation. We know what has happened to those countries which have gone into inflation. Their future is not very -- very bright. In some other countries, however, they have had a pretty firm grip on inflation. There have been all kinds of -- of protests by people who really don't think it through, on the Hill and in some of the papers, which in effect are policies in favor of inflation.

We have this -- this unexpended gap at the top of -- of income -- national income. Well, if people want something they will pay any old price for it, and therefore the more that that gap can be absorbed in various ways the less danger of

inflation there is. However, some people are pursuing the policy on the Hill that why shouldn't we go ahead and increase the price to the farmers and then increase the price of -- of wages, the old vicious spiral.

Then one thing that I don't think we ought to talk about. We are trying to get as much in the way of voluntary bond subscriptions as we possibly can; but there is one thing that I do want to say to you people confidentially, and warn you against using it, and that is this:

If we get inflation, and the dollar buys only a third or a half of what it did before, that means that we people who put money into Government bonds, when they are paid off, we will get a third or a half less than we put in. Now we don't want to get that idea abroad in the country, because we should neither of us buy a savings bond, or any other kind of bond, and get back the kind of dollar, in ten years, that will buy only a third or a half of what the dollar would when we put it in. That would destroy confidence. Of course, inflation as a whole will destroy confidence on the part of people in this country. What they want is a stable dollar.

I think some of you -- some of you will -- will remember that back in 1932 and 1933 the purchasing power of the dollar was in a very serious situation, and we wanted to turn it in the opposite direction; and with the -- with the help, the enthusiastic help of business in 1933 and 1934, we did raise the index figure from about -- I think it was 68 to about 84 or 5 in those two years.

Well, immediately that restored confidence. We weren't -- we weren't afraid of what would happen to the buying power of our dollar if we put it into business or anything else.

And what I hope is that we can get through this war without materially changing the buying power of the dollar that we get in our -- in our pay checks. That is why on -- on taxes, for example, I hope that we will be able to continue just the way we have been going, with some increases in taxes, but -- but also in the continuation of what has been so far a great success, in -- in the sale of War Bonds. And we have had perfectly wonderful cooperation from business as a whole, every kind of association and individual business, in carrying that out.

And I don't have to tell you that I am awfully happy the way things -- the relationship between business as a whole and the Government has been going on. We have had -- we have had complete cooperation.

I don't know whether there is anything else. If some of you want to ask me about something, it's all right.

MR. WOOTON: Thank you so much.

THE PRESIDENT: I can't think of anything else at this moment.

MR. WOOTON: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: It's good to see you again.

MR. WOOTON: I am afraid we have imposed on you just as long as we should.

THE PRESIDENT: Keep right on imposing, and

cooperating! (laughter)

MR. WOOTON: Thank you so much.

(applause for the President)

MR. WOOTON: Thanks again, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Show it (the watch) to them!

MR. WOOTON: You bet!

(laughter)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #904
Executive Office of the President
June 15, 1943 -- 4.05 P.M., E.W.T.

Q. Mr. President! (he waved in reply)

Q. (aside) Nice and sticky. (the weather)

Q. Are those new pictures? (a dark-red leather frame on the President's desk, containing individual color photographs of his four sons in uniform)

THE PRESIDENT: Where's the big boy (Earl Godwin)? Isn't he coming?

Q. I haven't seen him today.

THE PRESIDENT: May (Craig)! No one is occupying the chair. Don't you want to? The "Duenna," isn't that what they call it?

MAY CRAIG: (sitting down) That's an awfully ancient word.

THE PRESIDENT: I was going to say, "Grandma, you ought to be seated." (laughter)

MAY CRAIG: I like the "Grandma." He's a wonderful boy. (her grandson)

THE PRESIDENT: Grand.

Q. Steve, what's that stuff there? Is that work or Press Conference? (a pile of papers in front of the President)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve (Early) and I are agreed we haven't either of us got a thing -- not a thing.

Q. Mr. President, are you going to sign the

no-strike bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sure whether it has actually got in here. (looking in Mr. Early's direction) If it has, it has gone for recommendation to the usual departments.

Q. Mr. President, have you had the report from the Justice Department yet on that Navy California Elk Hills contract?

THE PRESIDENT: No, not yet.

Q. Still waiting for it.

Q. Mr. President, can you break your rule for a moment, and forecast as to what is going to happen to O.P.A.?

THE PRESIDENT: So far as I know, it's going on.

Q. It isn't going to be split up, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) No.

Q. (continuing) --- so far as you are concerned?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. Oh, perhaps I could put it this way: There's a lot of loose thinking abroad in Washington. Perhaps "abroad in Washington" doesn't fit together. Perhaps it's an anachronism, or something like that. I will say "in Washington." Leave out "abroad." You know -- you know some of the things I have said about Washington. (laughter) The people are very apt to fail to -- get confused by the trees, don't see the forest as a whole. The thing -- the thing -- the largest thing that we are after in all this discussion is a very old thing which hasn't yet been solved, and that is keeping the cost of living down. Can't eat your cake and have it too, when people are shying off from keeping the cost of living down.

You all know what would happen if we started the spiral of inflation in this country. If the cost goes up on the things that the consumer buys, then, of course, the next step would be to give higher wages. And then the cost of food would go up again, and you would have to increase the cost of food. Then you would go around the circle again -- you would have to equalize it by increasing the cost of wages again.

We all know, too, what would happen to our savings if the cost of living went up. I don't want to put a dollar in the bank and pull it out again in two or three years with a buying power of only fifty cents. I think that is sort of silly.

So in some way, in trying to keep the cost of living down, we ought to analyze what we have done.

Well, we have stabilized somewhere between -- depending on the kind of community -- the cost of rents, which represent from 22 to 33 percent of the average family's expenditures -- income. Well, that is pretty well taken care of all over the country.

And then there is another, around 33 percent, the cost of clothing and furniture and things like that. Well, that has been pretty well stabilized.

And then you have got another, the third third -- which is a rough figure -- the cost of food. That has not been stabilized. But of course, -- well, when May Craig or I go to the A. and P., ---

MAY CRAIG: (interjecting) Sanitary.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, excuse me. I don't go to that

chain, but it's all right. (laughter)

When we go there, of course, it looms pretty big, because we are paying out cash, and we think that that third that goes into food is the largest item, and almost the only item -- it's a psychological thing -- that is in the cost of living.

Now, of course, there are one or two things that are bound to happen, if the cost -- cost goes up on the necessities of life. I am not talking about strawberries in February -- January -- I am talking about the things that keep body and soul together. If those go up -- the prices to the consumer -- really, the people who pay are the consumers; and if those prices are allowed to go up without any effective regulation, you have got your spiral started.

Now on the other hand, if we set a ceiling on the prices of necessities in the food line, it is perfectly possible that because of short crops or because the actual cost of production -- that is to say, the farmer's cost -- has gone up a lot, and the processing cost has gone up a bit, and the distribution cost has gone up a bit, you have a perfectly legitimate figure that you have got to sell to the public at, which is much higher, unless somebody pays the difference between that higher price and the ceiling price. Well, that's what we would like to do.

It's only fair to the farmer, and to the processor, and the distributor, that they get their money back, and that the farmer's prices should not go down, and the processor and the distributor should at least come out even -- with even a

small profit. But that may bring the price beyond the ceiling, and somebody has to pay that differential.

Well, I wish somebody could give me some method of doing that. I have asked that question of a lot of people, "Can you find a method of doing it?" And they all come back to the same old thing. They call it a subsidy, or -- or you can call it a differential, where the Government will pay it.

Well, it might cost us -- Oh, what? -- a billion dollars and a half -- I am just taking figures I have read in the papers -- additional in the war effort, in order to keep the cost to the consumer of the food articles -- the essential food articles -- down below that ceiling. Well, that -- on a hundred billion dollar budget of running this war, a billion and a half or two billion is one and a half or two percent of the total cost of running the war. It has been done successfully in other places, with perhaps a little simpler problem.

But if anybody can -- can devise a -- a method that is better than that, we are only too willing to look into it. But nobody has ever done it yet. That is a method; and nobody has given any other method. Now when you come down to where I am talking about Washington not thinking things through, I have had, of course, a great many with "happy thoughts" in them.

We know perfectly well that what we need is a properly organized administration, and I think probably without any question there have been a great many delays that have been caused by two or three agencies having to look into the situation, and sometimes you find a month or six weeks or two months of

delays before you get a decision. That is absolutely true, as we have groped our way into this thing, during the past year. I think it is only about two weeks ago when we set up the new organization of the Office of War Mobilization. That is one of their particular functions, to coordinate the two or three different groups -- three or four different groups that have to do with portions of this problem.

But on the other hand, it has been suggested of course, by people who don't always think things through, that the mere fact of having some sort of glorified czar would cure the whole thing.

And one of the best illustrations of that is that when this suggestion was made to me, I said to the gentleman who suggested it, "Well now, what sort of things would the czar do?"

"Well," he said, "a friend of mine in a certain State had a carload of food that he wanted to send to the processor, or the distributor, and he knew that the carload of stuff would be -- middle of the week -- would be about ripe for shipping the following Monday. So he put in his order for a freight car."

"Now," he said, "the railroad people said he couldn't have a freight car, and what I want is a czar who will be able to say to Mr. Eastman (Director of the Office of Defense Transportation), 'I have got to have that freight car there next Monday.'"

Well, you see how perfectly absurd the whole thing is. Mr. Eastman would come back and say, "I am awfully sorry but I have got -- just to take any old figure -- I have got a

million freight cars and I have got demands for a million and a half. So I have got to parcel them out in the most fair way that I possibly can. I have got to try to make a million and a half cars do the duty of one million. That means that quite a lot of people are not going to be served when they want to be served. It's a -- it's a -- it's a condition and not -- and not a theory. I have only got a million cars."

So I said to this gentleman, I said, "In other words, you would have a food czar with authority to say to Mr. Eastman, 'Whether you like it or not, Mr. Eastman, you have got to -- you have got to transport food ahead of anything else. I am the food czar.'"

Well, pretty soon I guess, Donald Nelson would say to Mr. Eastman, "I am moving some very much needed spare parts for airplanes from the Middle West to the Seaboard, in order to ship them over to Africa, and I want a hurry-up order."

Mr. Eastman would say, "I am awfully sorry but I have had to give those cars to the food fellow."

And somebody else would say -- the Army or the Navy -- in time of war -- they have got to have a car to take this, that and the other thing that is needed by the Army and Navy in Europe or the Southwest Pacific.

Mr. Eastman would have to say, "I am terribly sorry but the food czar won't let me."

You see what a perfectly impossible situation it is.

Now as a matter of fact, this new organization of the O.W.M. -- I say it's only -- as I said, it's only about two

weeks old, and one of their principal duties is to coordinate the O.P.A. and the Food Administrator and the Department of Agriculture, and see that they speak to each other before any of these important decisions are reached, and do it right away and get out a decision much more quickly than we have been doing it in the past. In other words, use a -- a rule of judgment, instead of the rule of "happy thought."

Q. Mr. President, in that connection, there has been a good deal of discussion about these subsidies, or what have you, up on the Hill, and with some of the Administrators who have been carrying the ball in that regard. If Congress doesn't suggest anything more constructive, do you intend to ask them for subsidies to handle that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think -- I think I would put it this way. As I have said before, I think that those on the Hill -- that there is a way of holding the cost of essential foods down to a ceiling. Now if they have a better way -- a"better 'ole" -- I would be tickled to death. But nobody has suggested the "better 'ole" yet.

Q. Mr. President, it has occurred to some of us that a rather large group on the Hill would like to have all prices go right straight up to a demand level.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, yes.

Q. (continuing) That seems to be their "better 'ole."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, it's the spiral.

Well, of course, who does -- who does that affect?

It affects primarily two groups. The first group it doesn't bother them much, because they work for a fluctuating pay, which of course would almost of necessity go up if the spiral went up -- the cost of living; and I suppose in that group belong those occupations -- industrial occupations chiefly, and probably they represent about half the population of the country.

Well, in the other half of the population -- well, you are in it, and I am in it. If the cost of food goes up a hundred percent, do you think that your salaries are going up one hundred percent? Do you think they would give me a -- double my salary? The white-collar group -- there are over six million white-collar workers alone in this country. Now, their salaries don't go up with the cost of living. They never have, and I don't believe they ever will. You have got the -- the clerks, the stenographers, in the small towns and the big towns. They don't go up in accordance with the cost of living. So you are bearing down, as the thing goes on -- the cost of living goes up -- you are bearing down very unjustly on at least half the population of this nation.

Q. Do the people on the Hill seem convinced by that?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they are beginning to think about it more.

Q. Mr. President, does Mr. (Chester) Davis think he has all the power he needs to do his food job?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q. Does Chester Davis think that he has all the power

he needs to do his food job?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I have heard nothing to the contrary. I don't think -- the only thing I have heard from him lately was, "For God's Sake don't give me the O.P.A. job!" (laughter)

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #905
Executive Office of the President
June 25, 1943 -- 10.39 A.M., E.W.T.

THE PRESIDENT: Earl! You haven't been here for a long time. Had a good holiday?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir. I was in Nashville.

THE PRESIDENT: Really.

MR. GODWIN: And then the last time I couldn't get here. The O.P.A. wouldn't give me any gas.

THE PRESIDENT: (laughing) I will put you in a coal mine.

MR. GODWIN: If you will.

Q. Portal-to-portal pay?

THE PRESIDENT: I will give you portal-to-portal, depending on where you work. If you work above ground, you don't get any portal-to-portal.

MR. GODWIN: That's a good idea. Is that a promise?

THE PRESIDENT: That's a promise.

MR. GODWIN: You put me in a coal mine next winter.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. That's a good idea, too. You will be warm. (laughter)

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I have only got a hot weather story for you, showing my tender solicitude for the White House press. Years ago -- about twenty years ago, there was a President of the United States who really did think about dollars and cents. This end of the White House Executive Offices is heated by

a steam line from the State Department. So President Coolidge went over to Camp Meade and dug up some old pipe and brought it over here, and ran a steam line in the -- in the nice old pipe from Fort Meade. And, By Gosh, it has lasted twenty years. It was all right, and it was a good economy, and ----. However, it has got to a very old age now -- it is just about gone.

And they tell me that the Executive Offices in the White House are going to freeze next winter unless we get a new steam pipe, it is losing about a thousand pounds of steam a week. So, carrying out President Coolidge's thought of economy, I felt that that loss of steam was a pretty serious thing; so don't be surprised and write some pertinent pieces about spending Government money when you see the street all dug up, because we have got to lay a new steam line if you fellows are going to have any comfort next winter at all. (laughter) So you can put it entirely on yourselves and the solicitude of the President to see that you don't freeze to death. And it is going to cost about 25 thousand dollars, but I don't see any way out. Incidentally, it doesn't mean buying any new pipe because we have got it in the stockpile of the -- what is it? -- Park Service, or one of those things, ---

MR. EARLY: (interjecting) Public Buildings and Grounds.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- so it's a very important item to all of you.

MR. GODWIN: You say that's the only story you

have, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes! (loud laughter)

MR. GODWIN: When are you going to take us into your confidence on the anti-strike bill?

THE PRESIDENT: I am going to -- er -- sometime before Midnight.

Q. Before you said that, Mr. President, you said, "I am going to."

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I am going to take you into my confidence sometime before Midnight. (laughter)

Q. Are you going to take Congress into your confidence before Midnight?

THE PRESIDENT: That might give you an intimation. It might be called almost a leading question. (laughter)

MR. GODWIN: Yes.

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Mr. President, in this coal mine dispute, do you recognize and accept any October 31 deadline of the employees working for the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: Do I what?

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Recognize any, and accept the October 31 deadline in operation of those mines by the Government?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I am trying to mine coal -- keep it mined -- keep on mining it. We have got to do it some way. It will be cold if we don't, in spite of the steam line -- may not have any coal to run the steam line. In other words, perhaps a great many of us -- I sometimes do -- get away from

the fact that we are -- we are at war, that the -- that the existence, the life of the nation is very much at stake.

Just the same way, Bill -- this is off the record, but you can tell -- tell the office, I was a little -- little interested, for instance, in the editorial -- this is all off the record -- in the (New York) Times this morning. And -- well, it's one of those editorials that started off with the thought that was uppermost in the mind of the writer, and it talked about the loss of property by the coal mining companies. In other words, that was the first thing that occurred to the writer -- the loss of property.

Now there isn't going to be any loss of property to the coal mine owners under Government operation. They are going to come out at least even, and probably with a -- with a profit. And they are going to get their mines back. But I am just using it as a psychological illustration that hits us all. This is war. Well, I am all for saving property, naturally, but the question at issue is not -- not the property end of things. They are going to get their property back. They are not going to be out of pocket with Government operation. The question doesn't arise. There may be some technical things, as to how they are going to be compensated -- I would say details and the means, and so forth, but the big thing is that this is war. We have to -- if necessary we have to give our property, and if necessary we have to give our lives. And I am just using it as an illustration of a frame of mind that proves that some people in this country don't know that the United

States is at war.

MR. W. L. LAWRENCE: Well, Mr. President, I think one of the things that may have motivated that editorial writer is that nobody in the Government has said that the operators are going to get their mines back, and that they are going to get their profits?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, put it the other way around. Who in the Hell thought they weren't going to get their mines back? Have we ever said that?

Q. One of the conditions of Mr. (John L.) Lewis's return to work was that the Government operate the mines.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, obviously somebody has got to operate the mines. We have got to get the coal out. I don't care who operates the mines as long as we try to get the coal out to try to win the war. It's a serious thing. We are going to be cold next winter if we don't get the mines in operation. It may take two months or three months to get them into full operation. That is why (Secretary of the Interior) Ickes said yesterday we might have to ration coal to make good the loss caused by strikes.

Q. (interposing) Is this all off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) We cannot afford to close up factories longer than we have to -- it may take two or three months.

MR. GODWIN: Is this all off the record?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, this is all off the record -- just for background.

MR. GODWIN: For background?

MR. EARLY: Not background -- not if it's off the record.

THE PRESIDENT: Steve says not background, just off the record.

MR. GODWIN: Well, there's no objection to that fact being promulgated by anybody else, is there?

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's perfectly all right, ---

MR. GODWIN: (interjecting) Yes.

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- as long as it isn't attributed.

MR. EARLY: (aside, to Mr. Godwin) You asked for it.

MR. P. BRANDT: Mr. President, there is still talk on the Hill about a food czar.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, Pete, you know I hate to say that anything is a red herring. Supposing we had the angel Gabriel as food czar, with full powers. Is he going to get more food to the people at present cost? It's the real -- the real thing is -- if you talk about anything else it comes pretty close to being a red herring -- the real question is: Are you for inflation, or aren't you? Now that, in the last analysis, is the thing.

Put in a food czar! Sure! He is faced with two situations, the 1943 situation and 1944. Now we are all in favor of plans for growing a great deal more in 1944. That is grand. But that doesn't take care of things in 1943, or the beginning

of 1944 until the new crops come on. A food czar won't do it, or a joint committee of Congress can't do it.

The question is: Are we going to try to keep prices down, or are we going into an inflationary spiral?

And there are a lot of people on the Hill that say the easiest way to use up the surpluses of earning -- in earning power -- in income -- is to let the whole of prices shoot sky-high.

Well, there was a fellow on the radio the other day -- maybe he's here -- he said -- he said, let -- let the prices go on up. It will use this surplus of 20 billion dollars, or something like that, in purchasing power, and -----.

Sure, he said, it means the richer people will be able to pay the higher prices for food. Well, automatically rents would go up and clothing would go up too. And in effect said, of course the poorer people will suffer, but what difference does that make? It will get rid of the surplus purchasing power.

Now that was handed out to the American people. Let the poorer people suffer. And the poorer people would suffer, and will suffer -- people on reasonably small salaries, the white-collar crowd -- their pay won't go up with the increase in prices.

So it comes right down to that one thing: the issue before the Congress and the people is whether we are going to go into the inflationary spiral or not.

Now if Congress wants to do it, one hundred percent

of the responsibility is going to be on the Congress -- and I might just as well be honest. They have a perfect right to adopt an inflationary out-of-hand rise in the cost of living policy, and if they do the country ought to know who does it. That's the real answer.

MR. GODWIN: Mr. President, a large section of the American people wouldn't -- wouldn't know what you meant by "inflationary spiral," but they would know what you meant if you talked about the cost of food.

THE PRESIDENT: The cost of food, right.

MR. GODWIN: Now do you care to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes.

MR. GODWIN: (continuing) --- give us a line on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, we all know that the cost of food in this country runs between -- it's the average, of course, it doesn't apply to everybody -- between -- Oh -- around 33 percent of the family income, and with much larger and higher wages is -- is eating more. Everybody -- everybody is eating more in this country, at greatly increased prices. Then the people who have got the largest gains in their income still have a surplus left over, even after they have bought their quota of War Bonds.

Now if food keeps on going up, an awful lot of people -- what might be called the relatively small wage earners, who in order to eat have got to spend a great deal more money -- and if they do, we all know what will happen to the wage earners of this country. They are going to demand more pay, that is obvious. And when they demand more pay, and get it -- as

they probably would -- it means that the cost of living for the farmers goes up, the cost of production goes up, and therefore food prices have to go still higher. And when that happens you get the -- the third, more wages for the wage earners, and the fourth, higher cost of production for the farmer, and therefore more cost of food. And the thing goes on, and the spiral results. And we know what has happened to countries that have run into an inflationary spiral.

That makes it clear, Earl?

MR. GODWIN: Yes, sir.

Q. Mr. President, there have been reports that Chester Davis is submitting his resignation as War Food Administrator because he has inadequate power. Would you comment on that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No. I think it was last week I said that he had -- he had said, when I asked him, "Would you like to be -- run the O.P.A.?" -- he said, "God forbid." That was the last I have heard of it.

Q. It has been said he wants ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) What?

Q. It has been said that he wants control over farm prices, and that is one of the -- in the O.P.A. now. Is there any decision on that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, suppose he were in control of farm prices. Suppose a czar were in control of farm prices too, what is going to happen to the cost of food to the consumer? Now that is the first question that we all ought to ask.

What will happen to the cost of food to the consumer? Is the czar going to keep the cost of food down at the present level, or is he going to let it go higher as a result of a rise in farm prices? Now somebody has got to answer that question.

Q. Mr. President, did you hear what Mrs. Luce said about you in the House yesterday?

THE PRESIDENT: No. No. Did she take my name in vain? (laughter)

Q. Well, she said a lot about you.

Q. Mr. President, the Russian government, through an announcement in Moscow, has again re-stated its very strong desire for a second front.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I think you could say that our desire is just as strong as theirs; so everybody agrees.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

MR. GODWIN: Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: (to Mr. Godwin) Well, I am glad it's going to be warm here next week. You won't have to go into the coal mines.

(Notebook PC-XIV -- Page 144 -- JR)

CONFIDENTIAL
Press Conference #906
Executive Office of the President
June 29, 1943 -- 4.07 P.M., E.W.T.

MR. DONALDSON: All in.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't believe I have got a thing. There is one -- I heard there was a discussion out in the press room as to whether the last time we met I said I had had any letter of resignation from Mr. (Chester C.) Davis, so I thought I would check up, and here is the original sheet of the minutes of the press conference.

I guess you always take it down correctly? (this to your reporter, who was too surprised to answer)

The question was, "Mr. President, there have been reports that Chester Davis is submitting his resignation as War Food Administrator because he has inadequate power. Would you comment on that, sir? The President: No."

Well, there's the original, so I guess that stands.

(continuing reading): "I think it was last week I said that he had -- he had said, when I asked him, 'Would you like to be -- to run the O.P.A.?' -- he said, 'God forbid.'"

But the answer to the question was No.

Q. Mr. President, on another subject, could you tell us whether Vice President Wallace's statement today about Secretary (of Commerce Jesse) Jones and the R.F.C. was submitted either to you or Justice Byrnes before ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) I couldn't tell you anything about it, because I read the headlines just five

minutes ago and I haven't even read the story.

Q. Well, Mr. President, one of the jobs assigned to Justice Byrnes was to eliminate interdepartmental friction; and last August 21st you sent a letter to the heads of all departments saying that if they had any squabbles that they should not be aired publicly but should be brought to you.

THE PRESIDENT: (interjecting) Yes, ---

Q. (continuing) Now doesn't that run counter to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) --- I wish they would. I don't know -- I don't know what this particular thing is, but the polite suggestion of last August I still think is a very good one.

Q. Mr. President, could you give us any light, either in a philosophical discussion or for background, ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) On what?

Q. Could you give us any light, either in a philosophical discussion or as background, on the suggestion made in some quarters that while we are doing very well on the war fronts we are not doing too well on the administration front?

THE PRESIDENT: I would say get out around the country -- get your illustrations around the country,as to the last suggestion. In other words, don't you think the war is running pretty well at home?

Q. (interjecting) Well, I was thinking ---

THE PRESIDENT: (continuing) Aren't we getting the stuff out?

Q. I was thinking, Mr. President, about these different things that are happening here in Washington, which seem to ---

THE PRESIDENT: (interposing) Well, I wonder who is encouraging that?

Q. Everybody.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody, almost, in this room, except a very few of us. Now there's good philosophy you have got there.

Q. But this statement of the Vice President's today was a complete surprise, that just hit the desk about nine-thirty in the morning. There it was. I don't think anybody asked for it.

THE PRESIDENT: No, not that case. Evidently -- it took me by surprise too, as I just said.

Q. Well, Mr. President, can you name for us -- if I understand you correctly -- some of these little internecine affairs that have been started by newspapermen?

THE PRESIDENT: International?

Q. Internecine.

THE PRESIDENT: Oh Yes, flocks of them.

Q. I would like to know, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What? Well, read almost any columnist -- pretty nearly. Go back through the files. It's an awfully good habit.

Q. Would you include radio in that list too?

THE PRESIDENT: Some radio. Not as high a

percentage as in the case of the columnists.

Q. Would you differentiate, Mr. President, between reporters and columnists?

THE PRESIDENT: I think they do in their daily writing. Reporters are supposed to give news. They are not commentators, except in some cases. And, generally, it -- it's the fault of the owners of the paper; otherwise the poor devil would lose his job. The thing we used to call in the old days colored news. I know that most of you like to get away from colored news, because it's a part of the old news profession. I also know a great many individual cases right here in the room, where you have to write in accordance with orders. It's -- it's a tough job. It's a tough -- it's a tough situation that the purveyor of news -- the reporter -- is compelled to follow, and gets him into a situation that should be intolerable, and is intolerable to a great many people, and yet livelihood depends on taking orders. You all know what I mean. You know the examples.

Q. May I ask you, Mr. President, if you think that public effect of such a discussion would -- (here the President cupped his hand to his ear) -- may I ask whether you think that the effect of such a discussion in the public press would lead to any opinion that the arguments that go on between Government agencies and Government officials, through petty jealousies or what not, are the fault of the press -- that that would be lame?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I wouldn't try to assign

fault. I think, though, that the war effort has been impeded. I think a great many people, including mothers -- fathers -- are very much upset at some of the things that have happened here at Washington, back in the homes of the country.

Well, if you want an example of that -- you all know it -- an effort by several newspaper owners to spread the word -- controversy as to the morals of the WAACs. Now that was -- that was definitely a deliberate newspaper job; we all know that. It's a shameful thing. Well, that hurt the war effort. It gave a great many heart-burnings -- raised questions on the part of families. Now that was not necessarily reporters, it was orders from on top; we all know that. It didn't make it any less shameful.

Q. Is there any comment, Mr. President, on the Austin-Wadsworth bill, as a result of your talk with Mr. Wadsworth this morning?

THE PRESIDENT: Don't think I have any news on it.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. Thank you, sir.

(Notebook PC-XIV -- Page 158 -- JR)